

Portfolio

£22,000 to be won

There is £22,000 to be won in The Times Portfolio competition today...

Madrid may get special role in Nato

Spain's withdrawal from Nato would cause a very grave weakening of the alliance...

Ban on service for activist

A memorial service for the South African civil rights campaigner, Mrs Molly Blackburn...

Bank raid claim

A bank cashier helped to plan a robbery at her own bank and was later awarded £1,750 compensation...

Gartcosh March

Scottish steelworkers left Gartcosh steel plant in Lanarkshire on a 450-mile march to London...

Reagan mission

President Reagan flew to a summit in Mexico City to be dominated by his vice president...

Air crash kills plot officers

A group of Nigerian officers held on coup plot charges were killed when a plane bringing them to Lagos crashed at Kaduna...

Year of hope

Despite setbacks in the City in 1985, the experts reveal expectations for the investor of a bullish New Year for Britain...

Heysel switch

Three of the senior police officers in charge of security during the Heysel football stadium riots last year have been removed from active duty...

Lonrho closure

Mr Roland "Toby" Rowland's Lonrho has closed its air-freight subsidiary, Techlinks, because of its inability to operate the company profitably...

Drug epidemic

Drug abuse increased around the world last year, despite tough counter-measures in many countries according to the International Narcotics Control Board's annual report...

250 lose jobs

Commodore International, the American home computer company, has closed its production lines in Corby, Northamptonshire, making 250 people redundant...

Farley puzzle

Scientists fear they may never find the source of the salmonella infection at the Farley baby food factory...

India hit 600

Three batsmen scored centuries as India amassed a total of 600 for four wickets declared against Australia in the third final Test at Sydney...

Carrier force sails as US increases pressure on Libya

By Nicholas Ashford, Diplomatic Correspondent

The Reagan Administration yesterday increased sharply its campaign of psychological pressure against Libya...



A skier's view of Innsbruck in Austria during practice at the Beig Ist site for today's ski-jumping event there in the World Cup series

Westland warned of £1bn loss if US deal is backed

By Anthony Bevins, Political Correspondent

Westland could lose more than £1 billion worth of European business if the helicopter company's shareholders opt for the United Technologies-Fiat bid...

2,800 jobs expected from boat orders

By Rodney Cowton, Defence Correspondent

The orders for submarines and torpedoes worth about £900m announced yesterday by the Ministry of Defence are expected to create about 2,800 jobs...

Labour to pin hopes on manufacturing

By Donald Macintyre, Labour Editor

The Labour Party leader Mr Neil Kinnock will this month spearhead a co-ordinated effort by senior members of the shadow Cabinet to convince the electorate that it offers the best chance of regenerating the British economy...

Cricket officials await reactions on ban

English cricket authorities were still waiting to hear last night whether there were to be further repercussions around the world following Bangladesh's decision to ban four England B players with South African connections...

Sinn Fein candidate to fight poll from cell

Provisional Sinn Fein has nominated Mr Owen Carron, the former MP for Fermanagh and South Tyrone, to fight this month's by-election from his prison cell...

Britons retain posts on EEC commission

The two British EEC commissioners, Lord Cockfield and Mr Stanley Clinton Davis successfully fought off attempts to reduce their responsibilities in the new commission...

Britain's reserves plunge by \$416m

By David Smith, Economics Correspondent

Britain's gold and foreign currency reserves recorded the biggest fall for three years last month, as the Bank of England acted to stop the pound from falling...

INSIDE



Desert island discord

Michael Parkinson makes waves Page 25



Police man on the beat

Sting talks about going solo Page 32



Looking over Jordan

A visit to the ruined city of Petra Page 26

Future of the package

How the past sells the present Page 29

MONDAY



The city that still trembles

Mental aftermath of Mexico's earthquake

When the men come first

Wives who sacrifice careers for husbands

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Table with 2 columns: Home News, Overseas, Arts, Bridge, Business, Chess, Court, Crosswords, Diary, Events, Features. Includes sub-sections like Law Report, Leading articles, and Religion.

Tehran pledge to support Gadaffi raises tension closer to breaking point

By Robert Fisk, Middle East Correspondent

As a US naval task force led by the aircraft carrier Coral Sea left Naples yesterday for an undisclosed destination in the Mediterranean, Iran announced that it would respond to any American attack on Libya and give its 'unwavering support' to Colonel Gadaffi's regime in the event of a 'foreign invasion'.

PLO claims shot driver was Mossad agent

Beirut (AFP) - Force 17, a PLO group, claimed responsibility yesterday for the murder on Thursday of a taxi driver near Tel Aviv, and claimed that he was an agent of the Israeli intelligence service, Mossad.

US considers military strike

The Reagan Administration, furious at Colonel Gadaffi's support for international terrorism, is reviewing possibilities for a military strike against Libya, while urging West European allies to follow the US lead in imposing political and economic sanctions.

Two Arabs charged in Belgium

Two suspected Arab terrorists who were arrested in Belgium on Monday were yesterday charged with forming a "criminal association" with the intention of attacking persons and property and remained in custody for a month.



A farwelled embrace for President Gamael of Lebanon (right) from President Assad of Syria in Damascus yesterday, after a round of inconclusive talks.

Readers take sides over divorce story

Ms Zhou raised strong objections to the divorce, which was granted a year later. The court's decision sent the wife into "bystander paralysis". She threatened suicide but later agreed to the divorce on the condition that Mr Yang paid her 30,000 yuan (about \$7,000).



Lord Carrington (left) with Señor Felipe González, the Spanish Prime Minister, on the steps of Madrid's Moncloa Palace yesterday. Señor Narcis Serra, the Defence Minister, is in the centre.

Nato may bend rules for Spain

Spain's withdrawal would mean a "very grave weakening" of the Atlantic alliance, Lord Carrington, the Nato Secretary General, said here yesterday.

Reagan flies in for Mexican summit

Economic and financial measures to allay fears of social unrest in Mexico were expected to be high on the agenda as President Reagan arrived by helicopter in this border town for talks with President de la Madrid.

Safer birth for women over 35

It has become safer for American women over 35 to have babies. The rate of deaths associated with pregnancy and childbirth has halved in the past 10 years, a report published yesterday said.

Tax men catch up with Paris madame

Paris (Reuter). - Fernando Grubet, better known as the notorious Madame Claude who once operated France's biggest luxury call-girl network, is under arrest on charges of owing 11 million francs (£1 million) in back taxes, officials said yesterday.

Hostages in jail rising freed

New York - The prison rebellion in West Virginia, in which three prisoners were stabbed to death yesterday, ended with the release of the remaining seven hostages and talks on the inmates' grievances (Trevor Fishlock writes).

Mission five die in ambush

Harare (AP) - Unita rebels ambushed and killed five Angolans from the Caluquembe mission hospital staffed by Canadians in the south-west Huila province on New Year's Eve, a Canadian diplomat, Mr James Fox, reported.

18 die in Peru guerrilla attack

Lima (AP) - Sixteen peasants and two rebels were killed when Sendero Luminoso (Shining Path) guerrillas attacked the Andean village of Agua Blanca, in Huánuco department, on New Year's Day, according to a military communiqué.

Workers held in Fossey inquiry

Kigali, Rwanda (Reuter) - Police have detained several dozen workers from a remote research station formerly run by the American gorilla expert, Dian Fossey, aged 53, who was murdered last month, a US Embassy official said.

Poachers shot

Harare (AP) - Zimbabwean game rangers this week shot dead four Zimbabwean poachers in the Zambezi valley where black rhino herds are threatened with extinction. The poachers, armed with high velocity rifles, fired back before being killed.

Dhaka protest

Dhaka (Reuter) - About 25,000 striking Government doctors, engineers and agriculturalists marched through the Bangladesh capital in protest at the arrest of seven colleagues.

Australians drink most in English-speaking world

Sydney (AFP) - Australians do not drink more than any other English-speaking people, according to a survey by the Journal of the American Medical Association, which also expressed concern over drinking by children.

Sri Lanka checks tea exports for poison

Colombo (Reuter) - Sri Lanka is checking all tea exports after the British and US embassies received warnings that arsenic had been put in consignments, authorities said here yesterday.

Sour note on fishing in EEC share-out

After a political re-division of the spoils of EEC membership - inevitably dubbed the "night of the long knives" at the Berlaymont EEC headquarters - a new Commission was unveiled yesterday giving Spain and Portugal control of social affairs, financial instruments and fisheries.

The allocation of the fishing portfolio to Portugal caused immediate discussion between the two new members, with some Spanish officials complaining that Madrid and Lisbon have in the past come in blows over fishing rights.

Neither of the two Spanish commissioners, Señor Manuel Marin and Señor Abel Matutes, was given high-powered and high profile portfolios. The two British commissioners, Lord Cockfield and Mr Stanley Clinton Davis, successfully fought off attempts to reduce their range of responsibilities.

The new Commission

- Jacques Delors, President (France); Lorenzo Natali, co-operation and development (Italy); Frans Andriessen, agriculture, forestry (The Netherlands); Lord Cockfield, internal market, customs union, taxation (Britain); Henning Christophersen, budget, personnel and administration (Denmark); Manuel Marin, social affairs, employment, education and training (Spain); Carlo Ripa di Meana, institutional affairs, Citizenship Europe, culture, tourism and information (Italy); Peter Sutherland, competition, relations with the European Parliament (Ireland); Antonio Cardoso e Cunha, fisheries (Portugal); Abel Matutes, credit, investment, financial instruments, small and medium-sized businesses (Spain); Karl-Heinz Reuber, technical affairs, information, technology, research and science (West Germany).

Police for r... north Heysel... French

Arabic handwritten text at the bottom left of the page.

Police ban remembrance for rights activist in South African township

South African police have banned a memorial service for Mrs Molly Blackman, the civil rights activist, due to be held today in the black township of Port Elizabeth.

Fear of the unknown US gripped by Aids hysteria

Health authorities in Boston are being bedeviled by a doctor who wants Aids victims sent to an island off the Massachusetts coast that was once a leper colony.

3 Heysel officers replaced

Three of the senior Belgian Gendarmic officers in charge of security during the Heysel stadium riots last year have been removed from active duty and given administrative posts.

Marcos rivals make neutral zone pledge

Manila (Reuters, AP) - Philippines opposition leaders are vowing to make South-East Asia a zone of neutrality, freedom and peace if they win the presidential election on February 7.

French hearts warmed by controversial comic

Unlike the British, the French do not have a tradition of active individual support for charities. But the Restaurants du Coeur, launched at Christmas by France's best-known comedian, Coluche, to provide free meals for the poor and hungry, seem to have caught the public imagination.



Bedouin smugglers being paraded by police at Bilbeis, Egypt, yesterday in front of a cache of hashish slabs and a Russian AK47 rifle. The men were arrested with the haul in the desert east of Cairo.

Cocaine leads rise in world drugs abuse

Vienna (AFP) - Worldwide abuse of drugs, especially cocaine, rose last year despite stiff anti-drug measures in many countries, the International Narcotics Control Board said in its annual report released yesterday.

China invites bishop home to see mother

The Roman Catholic Bishop of Hong Kong, John Baptist Wu, who has been encouraged by the Pope to develop contacts with the Peking Government and with the breakaway Chinese "Patriotic Catholic Church", is soon to visit his mother for the first time in 40 years, in Guangdong Province.

Burkina says Mali plot caused war

Paris (Reuters) - Burkina Faso has blamed the outbreak of a five-day war with Mali last week on a Malian plot to topple the left-wing Burkinabe Government, and has denied that it was caused by a frontier dispute.

Atlantic rescue for record bid crew

Corunna (Reuters) - Five surviving crew of a giant French catamaran which foundered off the Spanish coast during a transatlantic record bid were airlifted to a hospital in this northwestern Spanish city.

Karajan check

Vienna (AFP) - Herbert von Karajan, the conductor, has cancelled two concerts here on January 11 and 12 to travel to the United States for a medical check-up, the Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra announced.

Convict spree

Oslo - (Reuters) - Two convicts with credit cards have run up bills totalling three million kroner (£275,000) on a round-the-world spending spree since escaping from a Norwegian jail three months ago.

Women police

Delhi (Reuters) - The Prime Minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, said he was setting up a special women-only police battalion to give women better representation in India's security forces.

Hashish haul

Delhi (Reuters) - Three tonnes of hashish worth £1 million were seized in India's biggest narcotics haul when customs officials raided a cargo ship's mechanical hold for West Germany.

Not so decadent

Peking (Reuters) - Performance in Shanghai of music by Beethoven, who was banned as decadent in the 1966-1978 Cultural Revolution, have drawn more than 24,000 people since September, the New China news agency said.

Fungus export

Peking (Reuters) - China has added an ancient tonic to its menu of exports for Japanese and Hong Kong gourmets: chicken prepared with caterpillar fungus. The tonic for lung and kidney ailments is part of a drive to export medicinal foods.

Quebec protest embarrasses Mulroney

Ottawa - Mrs Suzanne Blais-Grenier, who resigned as a junior minister earlier this week, has embarrassed the Canadian Prime Minister, Mr Brian Mulroney, by publicly claiming that ministers from Quebec lack decision-making influence in his Conservative Cabinet (John Best writes).

Colombo hints at snap poll

There is growing speculation in Sri Lanka that President Jayewardene is planning a snap election around April.

Chocolate racketeers kill driver

Polish detectives have broken up a ruthless gang of chocolate fete racketeers who hijacked a lorry load of sweets and then murdered the driver by burying him naked in a forest.

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Advertisement for THE TIMES INSULATED GILET, including pricing (£49.95), sizes, and ordering information. It includes a small table for sizes and a phone number for ordering.

ENTERTAINMENTS

WIGMORE HALL

Table listing Wigmore Hall events including Andras Schiff piano, Yurko Shokawa violin, and various chamber music ensembles.

WIGMORE HALL SAT 4, WED 5, SAT 11, WED 18 JANUARY at 7.30 pm ANDRAS SCHIFF YUUKO SHOKAWA MOZART PIANO The Complete Sonatas for Piano and Violin

WIGMORE HALL MONDAY 6 JANUARY at 7.30 pm JEAN-LOUIS HAGUENAUER SCHUBERT: Three Klavierstücke D.946 DEBussy: From Images, Book 1 CHOPIN: Ballade Op. 10 No. 3 MUSSORGSKY: Pictures at an Exhibition

WIGMORE HALL MONDAY 13 JANUARY at 7.30 pm RICHARD TAUBER PRIZE RECITAL ANNA STEIGER soprano PAMELA LIDIARD piano

WIGMORE HALL SATURDAY 19 JANUARY at 7.30 pm NASH ENSEMBLE LINDA ESTHER GRAY soprano SARAH LEONARD soprano

WIGMORE HALL 1985/86 Subscription Series Part Two Late Romanticism Austria & Germany London Philharmonic Series

Approx. 20% discount available for those who book in advance...

Table listing various theatre productions including 'The Musical', 'The Portent', 'The Nightingale', 'The Boy in the Blue', etc.

THE ARTS

Television: Mark Lawson finds that Last of the Summer Wine is showing signs of long-haul palsy. Richard Morrison previews Rossini at Versailles and Peter Ackroyd wraps up last night's Right to Reply.

Vintage wine goes off

As the credits rolled on this week's feature-length version of Roy Clarke's 12-year-old Yorkshire sit-com, an announcer reminded the audience that "three of the original stories are available on a BBC video-cassette": a painful confirmation of the gulf between what is and what was.



New team: Compo, Seymour (centre) and Clegg

Even Seymour's inventions - for example, a motorized wheelbarrow - are simply idiotic, a useful excuse for the script to include explosions at regular intervals. What is lacking is the previously essential element of the quixotic - the gentle, affecting humour of Compo's attempt at flight.

A feast for Rossini fans

Individually they may be short of cash to make lavish arts programmes, but collectively the national broadcasting organizations of Europe can still wield a hefty purse. They would have needed it for Rossini at Versailles (BBC-2, 8.10 to-night). This 100-minute production may be little more than a pretty televised concert.

The viewers' soapbox corner

Right to Reply Annual (Channel 4) emphasized once again why visual "consumer service" remains one of the most interesting programmes on television. Here was Jeremy Isaacs trying to adopt a high intellectual tone in order to justify his award of Derek Jarman's 'Rain', and signally failing to do anything other than appear smug or, at best, insufficiently brief.

Gallery Handel in words and pictures

A liking for Handel's music would seem to be a prerequisite for enjoyment of the National Portrait Gallery's current exhibition 'Hallelujah! Handel - Celebration of his Life and Times 1685-1759'. If only because you hear rather a lot of it as you walk round the 277 items. But in fact the exhibition, admirably garnered by Jacob Simon and running until Handel's 301st birthday (February 23), will fascinate anyone interested in Georgian London.



After Goupy 'The Charming Brute,' an anonymous engraving was heard (in the wrong place) for the first time then, and Solomon's chaplain has not missed a British coronation since.

Kreischer String Orchestra/Thomas Wigmore Hall

Despite its rather unencouraging name, the Kreischer String Orchestra, which is the resident ensemble at South Hill Park Arts Centre, Bracknell, is an auspiciously capable young group. And I really had no objection to their inclusion of an arrangement by their conductor, Michael Thomas, of Brahms's Op 111 String Quintet.

Radio Polished passions of youth

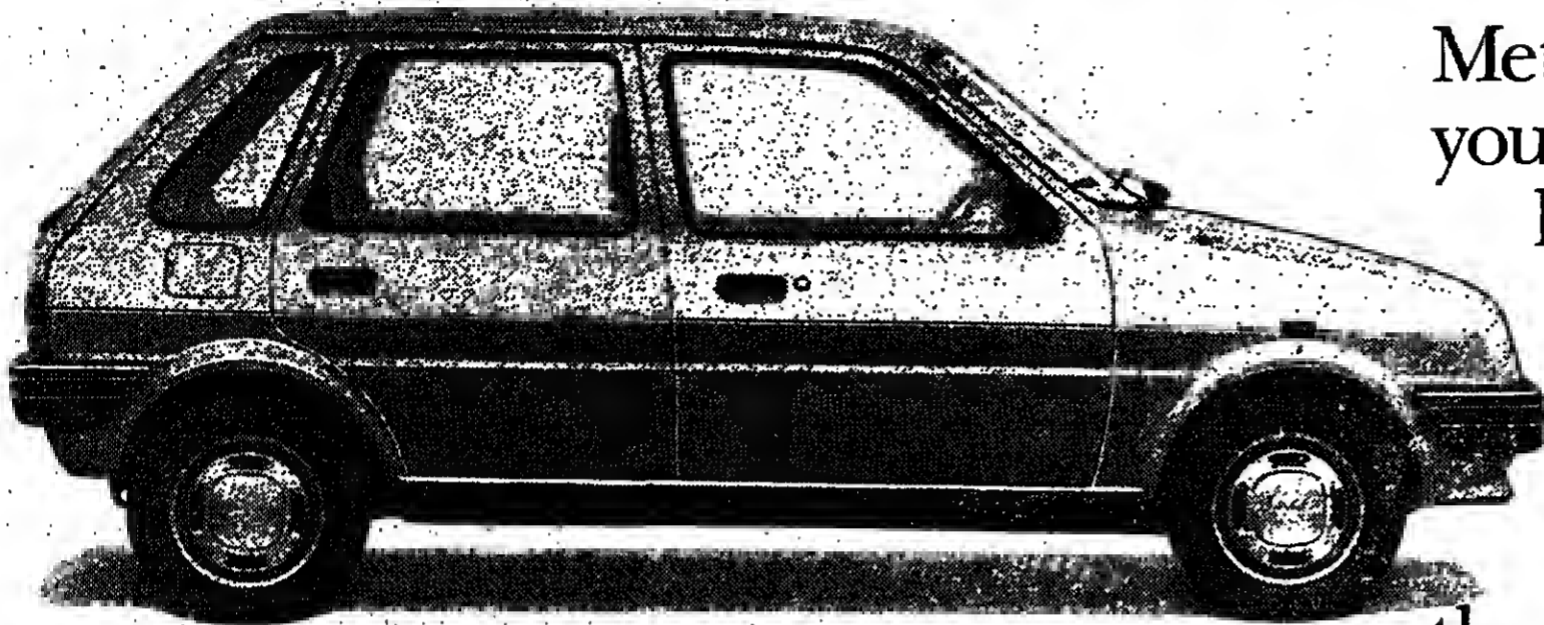
If I had to nominate one production not as first-footing 1986 in the 'lullian' style, I think it would have to be Peter Everett's series 'You'll Never Be 16 Again'. The last of its seven parts was heard on New Year's Day (Radio 4) and set a standard which it would be nice to think will prove a norm for the remainder of the year.

Concert

Jennifer Smith. Hers may be a smallish voice, but here it was beautifully balanced with the strings. Among many highlights were the passion and technical control that went side by side in 'Viviles' and the elegantly implicit serenity of 'Antique'.

Advertisement for 'SENSATIONAL DESIGNER FURS AT FACTORY PRICES' by CYRIL KAYE, featuring a list of fur items and prices.

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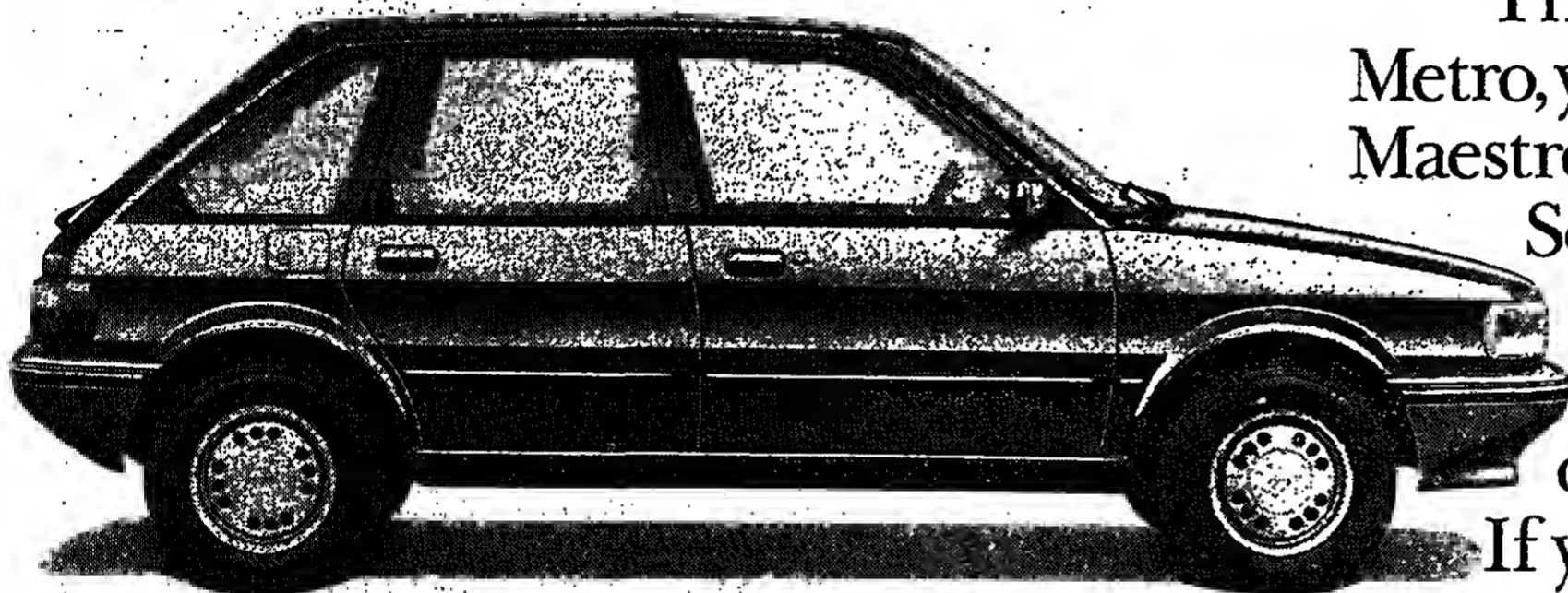


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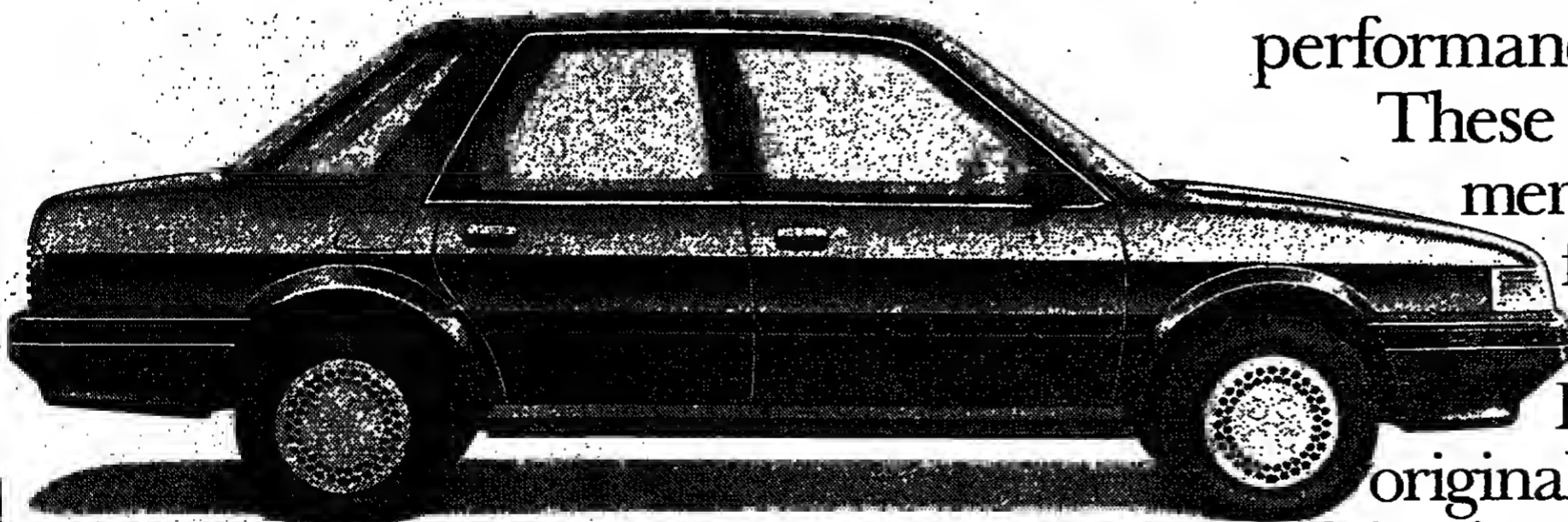
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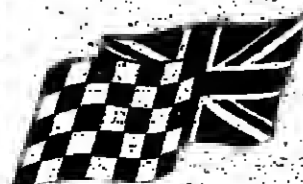


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FINANCE AND INDUSTRY

Executive Editor Kenneth Fleet

Imperial cries 'foul' as Hanson wades in

Lord Hanson's offer document for Imperial Group demonstrates that his bruising experiences in the American courts have not gone to waste.

Although Imperial's chairman, Geoffrey Kent, expected Hanson to pull no punches in its £1.8 billion attempt to break up the cosy merger between Imps and United Biscuits, he feels this attack is well below the belt.

Imperial's mistakes were far from secret. The four that Hanson chooses to highlight are Howard Johnson, the recent extraction from which loss-making American hotel business left Imperial \$300 million down, and vulnerable to just such an attack as that launched by Hanson.

Imps could undoubtedly have done better in the past but notional losses are a dangerously fluid concept to try and quantify.

Lord Hanson's criticism of the proposed merger with United Biscuits - he cannot resist referring to it as a reverse takeover, a widely-accepted statement which is guaranteed to inflame Mr Kent - have more foundation.

Reserves at danger level

The bunker mentality was well to the fore yesterday as the Treasury reported an underlying fall in the level of reserves of \$401 million, the sharpest drop since December 1982, and double the rate of decline reported in November.

Well, they would say that, wouldn't they, snapped the traders, recalling that in days of yore, the Chancellor had been a dedicated opponent of exchange rate intervention.

Mr Malcolm Baldrige, the US Commerce Secretary, yesterday expressed confidence that a falling dollar and declining interest rates plus continued low inflation would produce the 4 per cent growth that the Reagan Administration has forecast for this year.

Confirming that he privately agreed with the forecast, despite predictions by independent economists that growth would be slower than 4 per cent, he said: "We're going to see, as the dollar drops more, which I think it will, an increase in exports beginning about the middle of this year. That's going to add some employment."

assets than they put in, and scope for renegotiation of the terms seems scarce. New Hanson terms must be only a matter of time, though, and a price of closer to 300p, against the value of the current offer of just 240p, is likely.

The major uncertainty, and the one which is most exercising the Hanson camp, concerns the possibility of a Monopolies Commission reference. There are strong competition grounds for referring the UB-Imperial deal but none for referring Hanson/Imperial.

Maxwell's double and Lazard's treble

Guinness Peat's failure to attract more than a meagre 1.9 per cent acceptance from other than "in house" holders of Britannia Arrow shares is a total defeat for Alastair Morton and the Guinness Peat board which he dominates.

Guinness Peat's lack of impact further strains Mr Morton's credibility and makes Guinness Peat's next move critical but not simple.

The other chief mourner yesterday was Morgan Grenfell, which acted for Guinness Peat in the Britannia bid. Through professional skill and boldness bordering on recklessness Morgan last year went to the top of the mergers and acquisitions gladiators' league.

Lazard and Schrodes in particular, Lazard, with Neil Mackay leading in the rout of Guinness Peat, must now believe it can mesmerize Morgan. Three times Morgan clients have begun a fight with 28 per cent of the target company's shares: three times Lazard has defended successfully; Sotheby's (against Mr Cogan and Mr Swid), Eagle Star (Allianz) and now Britannia Arrow.

Analysts were also taken by the net position of Exchange Cover Scheme borrowings which effectively is a way for nationalized industries to meet their spending targets by overseas borrowing rather than through domestic money markets.

Property firms call off £19m merger

The agreed £19.7 million merger between Trafford Park Estates and Wingate Property Investments was called off yesterday.

It is believed that differences over the future management of Trafford Park Estates are behind the demise of the merger.

The agreed £19.7 million merger between Trafford Park Estates and Wingate Property Investments was called off yesterday.

Allies win battle to block Britannia Arrow takeover

By William Kay, City Editor

Britannia Arrow Holdings, the unit trust and fund management group, yesterday defeated the £230 million takeover bid by Guinness Peat, the merchant banking and insurance group and immediately celebrated by inviting on to the board Mr David Stevens, the merchant banker who with the publisher Mr Robert Maxwell, played a key part in Britannia's victory.

Mr Michael Newman, Britannia's chief executive, said: "I am very pleased. The bid was unwanted and inadequate, and now we can look forward to the future with confidence. Obviously there will have to be further discussions with Mr Stevens and Mr Maxwell."

Together the Stevens-Maxwell camp bought 26 per cent, compared with the 28 per cent that Guinness had bought from UK Provident Institution and through the market. Neither Mr



Friends and foe: David Stevens (left) and Robert Maxwell vs Alastair Morton (right).

Newman nor Mr Alastair Morton, Guinness Peat's chief executive, would comment on the possibility of a Guinness Peat representative joining the Britannia board.

By the 3.30pm deadline yesterday the £280 million bid had been accepted by holders of only 11.5 per cent of Britannia's shareholders. Of those, 1.8 per

and accordingly has let its offer lapse. On the news Britannia shares fell 3p to 138p. Guinness Peat shares rose 1p to 72p.

Mr Morton immediately congratulated Mr Newman on his defence campaign.

However, Mr Morton added: "Neither would have prevailed if Mr Newman had not produced arguments to persuade Messrs Maxwell and Stevens to commit about £55 million to Britannia. Neither the market nor we have yet been told what persuaded them to do so."

Mr Maxwell, Mr Stevens and other allies together acquired 26 per cent of Britannia's shares, arguing that Guinness Peat's offer was not good enough. The offer was worth 150p a share in equity and loan notes, with a cash alternative of 137p.

However, it was widely expected in the City last night that a further deal would have to be reached, to unwind the two large majority holdings.

Lonrho air firm 'shut' by new law

By Patience Wheatcroft

Lonrho has shut its air-freight subsidiary Tradewinds with effect from today. The company says it can no longer operate profitably and it puts much of the blame for its problems on the British Government.

Lonrho's managing director, Mr Roland "Tiny" Rowland has a long-running dispute with the Government over the decision to disallow his bid for House of Fraser whilst not referring the bid from the Egyptian Al-Fayed brothers to the Monopolies Commission.

His argument over Trade-winds legislation which requires aeroplanes to be made much quieter. This process, known as hush-kitting, costs \$2.5 million per aircraft and, claims Tradewinds, puts his operators at a competitive disadvantage against companies which are not required to hush-kit.

Sir Edward du Cann, chairman of Lonrho and Tradewinds, detailed the predicament in Parliament last year.

"To date nothing has been done to ameliorate the situation," Tradewinds says.

The company was established in 1968 and was bought by Lonrho in 1977. It operates three Boeing 707 freighters.

The planes operate regular freight services to Nigeria, Sudan, Canada, USA, Muscat and Dubai. These routes have become increasingly competitive recently, and Tradewinds says it is no longer possible to operate profitably.

The need to hush-kit was the last straw which forced Tradewinds into its decision to cease trading today, Lonrho says all debts will be honoured.

The need to hush-kit came into operation on Wednesday. Overseas companies operating in Britain do not need to hush-kit until 1988.

Doubts over £400m Nigerian notes

By Teresa Poole

The Central Bank of Nigeria intends to complete the issue of billions of dollars of promissory notes to short-term trade creditors by the end of June.

A bank spokesman said in Lagos yesterday that the recent budget proposals and the Nigerian government's decision to seek the rescheduling of medium and long-term debt would not hold up the process.

Under an agreement in April, 1984, Chase Manhattan Bank in London has been acting to reconcile the claims of exporters with the records of importers for debts liable before the end of 1983.

British companies have had varying success in obtaining promissory notes. A spokesman for ICI said the company has around £10 million of uninsured trade debts with Nigeria and had so far received notes for about a fifth of that.

Blue Circle is thought to be owed a considerable sum but to date has received only one note worth just \$6,000.

One of the biggest trade creditors is Unilever, with outstanding debts of about £100 million, most of which is insured by the ECED or covered by promissory notes.

£11m buyout of GKN division

By Our City Staff

Guest Keen and Nettelfields has sold its fasteners division for £11.6 million in a management buyout. GKN will no longer have an interest in one of its founding businesses, the manufacture of screws, in which it has been involved since 1902.

The sale is the latest in a series of divestments. In 1980 the company decided to concentrate on the supply of motor components, the defence industry and industrial services.

A new company, European Industrial Services, is the vehicle for the buyout, and Citicorp Venture Capital has led a syndicate of three equity investors and five banks from four countries.

Five directors and five senior managers are involved in the buyout and the managing director of EIS is Mr John Huband, previously the chief executive of GKN's fasteners division.

In Britain the fasteners division manufactures wood-screws, self-tapping screws and associated products and distributes a wide range of fasteners. EIS is also buying the European subsidiaries.

Defection at Nasdim

The first serious defection from one of the City's independent self-regulatory organizations appears likely. The investment manager Foreign and Colonial Management Group is preparing to leave the National Association of Securities Dealers and Investment Managers (Nasdim).

Foreign and Colonial, responsible for £1.3 billion of funds under management including the £600 million Foreign and Colonial Investment Trust, is about to join the Investment Management Regulatory Organisation (IMRO), which intends to represent investment managers and advisers, in the City's new self-regulatory framework.

Mr Kevin Pakenham, managing director of Foreign and Colonial management group, said yesterday: "We are examining the position in the light of forthcoming changes in legislation. It is probable that IMRO will be more suitable for us than Nasdim, but no formal decision has been made."

Market record

Shares, as measured by the FT 30 share index, achieved a new closing peak yesterday. The index finished with an 11.1 point gain at 1,149.6 points. Its previous peak was in November when it reached 1,146.9 points. Stock Market report, Page 13.

Ensign Trust, formerly the Murray Growth Trust, which was acquired by Merchant Navy Officers Pension Investments in September, is subscribing \$5 million (£2.6) to buy 508,000 shares in First Colonial Bankshares of Chicago. Ensign's holding in the bank's enlarged equity will remain at 17.5 per cent.

Kier defence

French Kier, the civil engineering company, has estimated pretax profits of £20.5 million in 1985, a rise of 25 per cent, as part of its defence against the £113 million bid from C H Beazer.

No BHS inquiry

Mr Leon Brittan, Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, has decided not to refer the proposed merger of Habitat Mothercare and British Home Stores to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

OPPEHEIMER EUROPE '86: From strength to strength. In September 1984 we strongly recommended Europe as the place to invest. Our judgement has proven to be sound. The Oppenheimer European Growth Trust has risen by a remarkable 76%* since its launch in September 1984 to 1st December 1985. For the fourth month running our fund is the top performing European Unit Trust over the preceding twelve month period. It was cited in the Winners Sector of the Observer on 15th December. We believe that investment prospects remain outstanding in Europe for 1986. To take full advantage act now. Contact our dealers on 01-236 3885 (6 lines). *Offer to bid from launch 1.9.84 to 1.12.85 net income reinvested. Source: Planned Savings. The price of units can go down as well as up.

Baldrige still confident of 4% growth

Mr Malcolm Baldrige, the US Commerce Secretary, yesterday expressed confidence that a falling dollar and declining interest rates plus continued low inflation would produce the 4 per cent growth that the Reagan Administration has forecast for this year.

MARKET SUMMARY table with columns: STOCK MARKETS, MAIN PRICE CHANGES, CURRENCIES, INTEREST RATES, and GOLD.

FOREIGN EXCHANGES

The dollar scored widespread gains yesterday as remarks by the governor of Bank of Japan had operators rushing to cover their short positions.

The American currency climbed more than 4 yen in less than half an hour in immediate response to the governor's declaration that he did not want to see the yen rise above its year-end level of 200.60 to the dollar ahead of the Tokyo summit meeting in May.

The dollar, down to about 198.50 yen in the far East, swung up to touch 202.80 in the space of 20 minutes on the statement.

Table with columns for currency, rate, and change. Includes Sterling, Swiss Franc, and other major currencies.

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES

Table showing Sterling spot and forward rates for various currencies like New York, London, and others.

OTHER STERLING RATES

Table listing other sterling rates for currencies such as Argentina, Australia, and Canada.

DOLLAR SPOT RATES

Table showing dollar spot rates for various international currencies.

EURO-CURRENCY DEPOSITS %

Table detailing Euro-currency deposit rates for different terms and currencies.

TREASURY BILL TENDER

Table showing Treasury bill tender information including bid amounts and yields.

WALL STREET

New York (Agency): The market headed higher in active early trading yesterday.

Table of Wall Street stock prices for various companies like IBM, AT&T, and others.

Table of Wall Street stock prices for companies like Exxon, Ford, and General Motors.

Table of Wall Street stock prices for companies like British Airways, British Petroleum, and others.

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Big rise in sales of cream liqueurs

By Teresa Poole

Cream-based liqueurs for the after-dinner drinker have been one of the alcoholic successes of 1985.

Better distribution and wider availability has stimulated demand, and it is thought that they are being favoured increasingly by women.

The market for cream-based liqueurs is seasonal and the two months before Christmas saw an aggressive marketing battle among the leading brands.

The clear market leader - and also the world's best selling liqueur - is Baileys Original Irish Cream, a blend of Irish whiskey, chocolate and cream, made by Grand Metropolitan's wine and spirits division, International Distillers and Vintners.

Baileys holds between 60 and 70 per cent of the British market.

According to the Victoria Wine Company, sales at 800 outlets of cream-based liqueurs as a whole were up by 15 per cent over the Christmas period.

At the top end of the market is Creme de Grand Marnier, a cream-based liqueur with orange-flavoured cognac, which sells for about £6.95 a bottle.

At the bottom end of the market is Creme de Cassis, a cream-based liqueur with black currant liqueur, which sells for about £2.95 a bottle.

RTZ coup could threaten Britain's oil prosperity

TEMPUS

When does an independent oil company become a major oil company? This is the question Lasmo shareholders must ask themselves at the extraordinary meeting on Monday.

The deal has been widely acknowledged as a coup for RTZ, but there must be lingering doubts about whether this is the best way for the independent oil sector to undergo its much-needed and painful rationalization.

Tumbling oil prices and market sentiment have ensured that this part must be endured but the emergence of RTZ as the puppeteer pulling the rationalization strings may not be to the long run.

Property shares Last year saw property share brokers crying into their silk handkerchiefs. There were few takers for property shares in a hush market which broke new records almost daily.

French Kier French Kier's defence document against C H Beazer's £113 million bid pushed its shares up 4p to 268p, putting it even further up of Beazer's offer.

Net asset value, which includes revaluations of completed developments and profits expected to fall in 1986 from contracts already completed, is put at 246p per share.

Beazer's profits in 1985 are estimated at £20.5 million, a rise of 25 per cent. Turnover is up 13 per cent, and eps up 27 per cent, helped by a falling British tax rate, and dividends have been boosted by 40 per cent.

Beazer, which has no experience of international construction, wants Kier as a cash generator and a cyclical offset to its housebuilding activities.

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

Table showing London financial futures prices for various contracts like 3-month Sterling, 6-month Sterling, etc.

STOCK MARKET REPORT

Defence orders spark electricals A record-breaking month and orders from the military gave a boost to electrical shares yesterday, helping General Electric Company and Lucas Industries.

Government stocks were still to the doldrums, showing losses of around 1/2p. The gyrations of sterling against the dollar on the foreign exchanges confused the picture.

Defence orders spark electricals

By Derek Pain and Pam Spooner

A record-breaking month and orders from the military gave a boost to electrical shares yesterday, helping General Electric Company and Lucas Industries.

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Oil prices did not help the pound, although expectations that President Reagan will send a US support fleet to the Middle East in case of clashes between Israel and Libya provoked hopes of higher prices.

Speculation that Dr Ashraf Marwan, the Egyptian financier, is increasing his shareholding in Exelco, the communications holding, has pushed the shares 14p higher to 330p yesterday.

Table of commodity prices for various goods like oil, sugar, and coffee.

COMMODITIES

Table of commodity prices for various goods like oil, sugar, and coffee.

Table of commodity prices for various goods like oil, sugar, and coffee.

FINANCIAL TRUSTS

Table showing financial trusts information including company names and prices.

APPOINTMENTS

Simmons & Simmons: Mr George Litterer, Mr Simon Morgan, Mr Iain Callen and Mr Martin Smith have been made partners.

British Aerospace: Mr Peter Brighton has been appointed managing director of British Aerospace Electronic Systems and Equipment Division.

RECENT ISSUES

Table listing recent issues of stocks and bonds with details on price and volume.

COMPANY NEWS

BET United Transport International: A subsidiary of BET, has bought Consolidated Bulk Liqueur Transport of West Yorkshire for cash.

SCOTTISH WIDOWS FUND AND LIFE ASSURANCE SOCIETY: Income for ordinary business assistance and annuities (including group and executive pension schemes) during 1985 rose to £53 million (£45 million).

FAMILY MONEY/2

Protection package that eases the cost of family travelling

A "roving" holiday insurance policy was launched this week, and is available for practically any holiday you book. It is called The Travel Protection Plan 1986, and it provides more or less standard levels of cover.

We compared it to the policy recommended by the Association of British Travel Agents (ABTA) which is called Supersure Plus. ABTA's policy generally works out cheaper for adults, but the 50 per cent reduction in premiums for children under 16 offered by the Travel Protection Plan 1986 means that families should generally get cheaper cover with the new policy.

TPP provides adequate medical expense cover of up to £500,000, but in common with almost all package insurance policies the baggage and personal effects cover is limited. With TPP you get overall cover of £800 and a single item limit of £200 (Supersure Plus provides cover of £750 and £250, respectively). But do watch out for the fact that the small print lists a whole host of items - such as jewellery, watches, cameras, for example, where the maximum payout for loss or damage to all of these items collectively is limited to £200.

If you are taking valuable items away with you check to see that they are adequately covered - generally either through individual insurance or the all-risk section of your household policy. Holiday package policies alone are inadequate.

The Travel Protection Plan 1986 is available through some, but not all, travel agents and direct from the brokers Crispin Speers and Partners, 41 Crutched Friars, London EC3 (tel: 01-480 5083).

Glittering trio from the Britannia

Britannia Building Society has announced changes in some of its higher interest earning accounts. The old 7-day and 60-day notice accounts and the 1-year term share account will close on January 11. They are to be replaced on January 15 by three instant access Gold accounts offering slightly better interest for higher minimum investments.

The best of the three will be Trident Super Gold, offering a net rate of 9.5 per cent on a minimum balance of £10,000. The best rate offered from the accounts being closed was 9.5 per cent. However, the minimum balance required was only £500.

Investors with only £250 to £500 will not benefit from the change - the new Trident Gold account will offer them the same 9.25 per cent as holders of the 7-day account enjoy. But if you have a large investment in

MAY I REMIND YOU, FORTHRUP, GABLEDECK IS NOT A MINORITY GROUP LANGUAGE...



We recently praised the Halifax for producing some information leaflets in minority group languages. Bedford and Bingley Building Society has reminded us that it has been producing one in a number of Asian languages since June 1984, and the list of languages available includes Welsh.

any of these accounts you should consider moving to Super Gold - funds are not transferred automatically in cases like this.

The name's bond...

Fixed income at a time of little or no inflation has its charms for those dependent on income from investments to pay the bills. And although building societies are offering between 8 and 10 per cent net of income tax on extra interest accounts, this could come down at any time. Guaranteed income bonds could be the answer and. financial adviser Chasa de Vere has one and two year bonds paying 9.7 per cent net of basic rate tax. Minimum investment is £1,000. Details from Chasa de Vere on 01-404 5768.

Hot for holiday cash

Times are certainly changing. Years ago we used to save regularly in a building society account to raise money for holidays. But the competition for our money is hotting up, and while Thomas Cook and Lunn Poly have been running holiday credit arrangements for some time the latest scheme from the Ileskon Consumer Co-operative Society looks a bad buy. Your borrowing limit with the Ileskon is a multiple of ten times the amount you choose to repay each month, but the

The consumers' banker

If you have a complaint against a bank which you cannot resolve, even at head office level, then the Banking Ombudsman, Ian Edwards-Jones QC, may be the man for you. The Office of the Banking Ombudsman became operational this week and will investigate complaints from individuals concerning the provision of personal banking services by a number of banks. Bear in mind that it is really only fresh complaints - those arising on or after January 1, 1986 - that the Banking Ombudsman will consider, and you must have tried your complaint at the bank's head office before turning to the Ombudsman.

Details, including advice on whether you fall within the scheme, from The Office of the Banking Ombudsman, Citadel House, 5/11 Fetter Lane, London, EC4A 1BR.

BES at a glance

The BES Magazine in its January issue includes some useful pages on certain details and implications of the recent BES legislation. Editor John Harrison says he hopes "this will stimulate further evaluation of the merits and also certain shortcomings which still make the BES less effective than it deserves to be".

If you want to take out a subscription to the magazine it will cost you £48 a year for 12 issues. It has the merit of providing detailed summaries of a broad range of BES issues. However, the magazine judges on the issues to date, rarely contains direct criticism of particular BES issues where it is merited. If you do not tell us directly which BES issues you should avoid, details from the publishers, Private Investor Publications, 1-3 Berry Street, London EC1V 0AA (Tel: 01-808 1036).

Aitken's new banner

For Aitken Hume read Sentinel. This is the message for those unit trusts and other funds managed under the banner of Aitken Hume Funds Management. These in future will bear the name Sentinel, reflecting the acquisition of the Sentinel Insurance Company in November 1985 by Aitken Hume.

Two of the unit trusts in this stable are broadening out to make these funds less speculative - the American Technology and the Japanese Technology trusts are being given a "and General" suffix to reflect the wider outlook that the trusts will take.

A 1 per cent discount on all the unit trusts is offered "to mark the occasion of the name change". Potential investors should bear in mind, however, that none of the Aitken Hume unit trusts reached the top ten of any sector, according to the one year figures we published last week.

Cannon takes aim

A new participant in the mortgage market has emerged in the form of Cannon Assurance, which is offering mortgages of between £15,000 to £135,000 at 12.75 per cent (APR 13.6 per cent). No differentials or arrangement fees, and loans will be up to 95 per cent of the property's value in certain cases. The new mortgage business is being carried out by CL Mortgage and further details are available from CL at 1 Olympic Way, Wembley, Middlesex HA9 0NB.

Winners poste haste

Now that the closing date for entries to the £2,500 Times-Bill Samuel Young Financial Writer of the Year Competition has passed, our judges can get down to the serious task of reading and evaluating your entries. Incidentally, as a consequence to the vagaries of the Christmas post we have decided to accept receipt of entries bearing a Post Office frank dated on or before December 31. The date of publication of the winning entries will be announced shortly.



Edwards-Jones: Advice you can bank on

Hoskins Brewery PLC
This advertisement is not an invitation to subscribe for or purchase any shares
Offer for subscription under the Business Expansion Scheme
Sponsored by Oceana Asset Management Ltd.
Tax relief available for 1985/6
Closing date of 10 January 1986
Should you have any questions or REQUIRE FURTHER COPIES OF THE PROSPECTUS FOR HOSKINS BREWERY PLC please contact John Corrigan on 01-588 7262 or Richard Ellert on 098 683 321

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Nationwide Building Society
(Incorporated in England under the Building Societies Act 1874)
Placing of £20,000,000 12 per cent Bonds due 12th January 1987
Listing for the bonds has been granted by the Council of The Stock Exchange. Listing Particulars in relation to The Nationwide Building Society are available in the Extel Statistical Services. Copies may be collected from Companies Announcements Office, P.O. Box No. 119, The Stock Exchange, London EC2P 2BT until 7th January 1986 and until 20th January 1986 from:
Fulton Packshaw Ltd., 34-40 Ludgate Hill, London EC4M 7JT
Laurie, Milbank & Co., Portland House, 72/73 Basinghall Street, London EC2V 5DP
Rowe & Pitman, 1 Finsbury Avenue, London EC2M 2PA
4th January 1986

Trusts with tax pitfalls

From M. A. Truman, The Crossways, Heston, Hounslow, Middlesex

I have followed with interest the various references to inheritance trust CTT schemes in recent issues of Family Money, since as a tax adviser I have grown increasingly worried about the number of clients who are sold these schemes when they may be completely inappropriate to their circumstances.

As an experiment, I asked half a dozen organisations purporting to offer CTT planning advice at the recent Money Exhibition what they would suggest for a widow who had inherited a substantial portfolio of blue-chip shares in the mid-1960s and had held on to them ever since.

Almost without exception these advisers, including very well-known merchant banks and life assurance companies, suggested an inheritance trust or discount gift scheme, whichever was the Capital Gains Tax are payable on such a portfolio going into such a scheme would, of course, have been far more than the CTT saved.

It is also worrying how many people believe these schemes to be "free", compared with professional advisers who charge for their services. However, as your article on December 7 pointed out, the actual value of the units allocated to the scheme is generally some 5 per cent less than the cash invested - how else could the companies pay the commissions they do?

The cost of setting up an appropriate discount trust, tailored to the client's own circumstances, and paying the Revenue would not be so unfair should talk to the unfortunate purchasers of Capital Gains Tax schemes in the mid-1970s, who now find that after the Ramsey and Furniss decisions their capital losses are not worth the paper they were manufactured on, and all they have left is the hole in their bank account made by the very substantial fees that the scheme's promoters charged them.

My understanding of the Revenue's position is that they in a rather leniently manner, taking some of the earlier and least acceptable of the schemes to the Special Commissioners, and then probably on to court.

The danger is that, in giving judgment on the more dubious schemes, the courts will make pronouncements that also affect the schemes still being marketed. Estates which have already been agreed are unlikely to be reopened, but the estates of those who die after any such judicial pronouncement will be decided in accordance with it, even though the scheme may have been effected several years ago.

BUSINESS EXPANSION SCHEME
Your fifth opportunity to invest with the leader
Lazard Brothers have launched their Fifth Development Capital Fund - the final fund in the 85/86 tax year - to enable investors to take advantage of further investment opportunities.
The Fund's investment policy and the tax concessions of the BES together provide an outstanding investment opportunity for higher rate tax payers.
Three of the four previous Lazard Development Capital Funds have been oversubscribed and if you intend to invest in the Fifth BES Fund during this tax year you should act without delay to avoid disappointment.
Total funds raised by Lazard Brothers under the BES now exceed £14 million - the largest amount by any manager of Approved BES Funds - and investments have been made in 30 companies.
THE ADVANTAGES OF INVESTING IN THE LAZARD DEVELOPMENT CAPITAL FUNDS ARE:
1. The continuing flow of high quality investment proposals received by the managers
2. The ability of the managers to select investments considered to possess both growth potential and security
3. The commercial experience of the managers
4. The managers' involvement in monitoring companies which is designed to reduce the risk of losses
5. The well balanced spread of investments
6. Long-term plans for realisation of investments
OFFER CLOSERS LATEST JANUARY 15
The minimum subscription level has now been exceeded. The application list may be closed at any time, up to and including 15 January 1986, at the managers' discretion.
Lazard Brothers & Co., Limited
For a copy of the memorandum, on the basis of which alone applications can be made, please telephone Jane Lamont on 01-588 2721 or send this coupon in 21 Moorfields, London EC2P 2HT
Investment in unquoted companies carries higher risks as well as the chance of higher rewards.
The minimum subscription is £2,000 and the maximum subscription is £40,000.

THE SCIMITAR GLOBAL GROWTH TRUST
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When you're investing for international growth, an international perspective gives you the edge.
Finding an international growth trust that promises you the earth isn't difficult. Finding one that delivers, is. Successful international investment isn't as simple as some people seem to think. It demands more than just good intentions and impressive promises - it calls for on-the-spot contacts in the world's most important financial centres, round-the-clock market information and the ability to recognise and grasp the best opportunities as they arise.
It calls for the breadth of international contacts and the depth of worldwide resources that the new Global Growth Trust from Scimitar offers.
There's nothing dramatically different about the aim of the trust: to achieve high and increasing capital growth by investing in a carefully-selected portfolio of top-performing international stocks and shares.
So what makes it so special? Scimitar does. As the new investment management division of The Standard Chartered Group, Scimitar is backed by the experience and expertise of one of the largest, most successful and broad-based financial institutions in the world - with access to a global network of resources other unit trust managers dream about.
Scimitar has also managed to attract some of the most talented and respected professionals in the business to its fund management team - and the result is an opportunity that no serious investor can afford to ignore.
In a unit trust the price of units can go down as well as up. But with Scimitar's contacts, experience and outlook behind you, investing in the Scimitar Global Growth Trust could prove to be one of the most profitable moves you've ever made.
Sharpen up your investment prospects today - complete and return the coupon now.
General Information
Contract notes will be issued by return. Certificates will be issued approximately 4 weeks later. After 17th January 1986 the daily prices and yields will be published in leading national newspapers. Managers Scimitar Asset Management Limited.
Fees: The Royal Bank of Scotland plc.
Charges: An initial charge of 5% is included in the Offer Price of the units, thereafter 1% per annum (+VAT) of the Fund's value, will be deducted from the Trust's income. The Trust deed allows for a maximum charge of 2% per annum; the managers will give unit holders at least three months' written notice of any change.
Setting Units Units may be sold back on any business day at the bid price netting on receipt of instructions. A cheque for payment will normally be sent within 7 days of receipt of a redeemed certificate.
Income Distribution Distributions will be made on 30th June and 31st December. Investments made now will qualify for the first distribution on 30th June 1986.
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THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

Main table of Unit Trust Information Service containing columns for fund names, managers, and performance metrics.

UNIT LINKED INSURANCE INVESTMENTS

Main table of Unit Linked Insurance Investments containing columns for insurance policies, investment options, and performance metrics.

Vertical text on the right margin, possibly containing additional information or advertisements.

FAMILY MONEY/4

Quick cash? Not the BES way

BUSINESS EXPANSION

Anyone interested in underwriting Business Expansion Scheme issues should note that a call on the underwriters has recently been made for one BES scheme. Chelsea Restaurants, which was seeking a minimum of £800,000 from investors (maximum £2.5 million) managed to raise only £350,000. The issue was underwritten and therefore the underwriters have been called to make up the deficit, which they have done.

schemes generally; certain types are being examined by the Revenue, as potentially containing provisions in the way they are operating (or intend to operate, that would take them outside the ambit of the BES.

The Chelsea Restaurants experience illustrates that BES underwriting is not simply a passport to a quick cash hand-out. Ardenote plc is looking for up to £450,000 to finance improvements to the Ardenote Country Club, located in Warwickshire. Although the executive directors have invested £100,000 of their own money, they do not appear from the prospectus to have much relevant experience. Moreover, the sponsors have taken an option over 50,000 shares at the 50p price only (outside investors pay 75p now) up to June 30, 1991.

The company has outstanding secured loan facilities of £339,807, precious little information is given on the past trading record of the club and the issue expenses are fairly high. Meanwhile, the accompanying table shows those BES opportunities still open to investors. Bear in mind that as the end of the tax year approaches there is likely to be a rush of new BES issues aimed at affording investors a final opportunity to qualify for this year's BES tax relief.

Lawrence Lever

SOME BES SCHEMES STILL AVAILABLE TO INVESTORS

Table with columns: Company/Fund name, Sponsor, Minimum Investment, Closing date. Lists various BES schemes and their details.

Research: Sue Proud, The Times

*Closing dates may be extended

A firmer footing for the early leavers

PENSIONS

New provisions aimed at improving the pension rights of early leavers are contained in the Social Security Act 1985, which came into force this week writes Lawrence Lever. They will increase the value of certain deferred or preserved pensions left behind by employees switching jobs as well as widening the options available to them in respect of their accrued pension benefits.

in order to qualify for a preserved pension. The previous additional requirement, that they must also have reached the age of 26, will no longer apply. Moreover, for certain employees leaving employment after January 1, 1986, there will be a statutory requirement on employers to increase the value of their preserved pension.

The new law applies also to money purchase pension schemes. These cannot be contracted out of the state earnings related scheme (SERPS). The new law provides that the treatment of any preserved pension in a money purchase scheme must be the same as that applicable to pensions remaining within the scheme.

108% Base Lending Rates. Advertisement for various banks and financial services.

Specialist fund for Yorkshire businesses

This week saw the latest offering of specialist unit trusts with the launch of the Yorkshire General Trust, which will be investing at least 75 per cent of investors' money in Yorkshire companies.

About 144 companies qualify for the "Yorkshire" label, according to the managers of the new trust, the Yorkshire General Unit Trust Ltd. These will be companies with Yorkshire headquarters or whose main activities are located in Yorkshire.

This is the York Trust's Index incorporating the 144 Yorkshire companies, which was first compiled on March 1 1985. It is published weekly in the Yorkshire Post. The introductory leaflet shows an overall increase of 285 per cent in the share prices of the constituent companies from October 1 1985 to now as against an FT 30 Index increase for the same period of 198 per cent.

There are potential conflicts of interest. The managers also point out that since the compilation of the YTI Index it has out-performed both FTSE 100 and the FT 30. You should tread carefully with such comparisons, because the "Yorkshire" connection is not one that is widely recognized.

More retirement income? If you are retired, or planning for retirement, you need the best possible income from the capital you have, and probably help in reducing the amount of tax you pay. At Trident Life we specialise in investment schemes which are particularly advantageous for the over 50's and 60's.

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CHOOSING A UNIT TRUST. There are now over 700 authorised Unit Trusts available. Our expertise, knowledge of markets & research facilities can assist in achieving the returns you require.

Coastal Resort Hotels PLC. Offer for Subscription under the Business Expansion Scheme of up to 1,230,000 Ordinary Shares of £1 each at 125p per share payable in full on application.

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The price of fame could prove costly for Bath

By David Hands, Rugby Correspondent

It is a sign of rugby's cyclical nature that what was once a lesser supplied England with seven players in 1984, with consequent disruption to their cup plans, Bath's trio of selectors sat down for five hours yesterday to plan their approach to the Player Special Cup match with Oxford on January 25, knowing that they will not see their leading players in matches between now and then.

England have a squad meeting tomorrow and next weekend before the meeting with Wales on January 18 and Bath, affected by injuries today, have seven players involved with the match squad. Leicester have only one, which could give body to their own hopes this season.

Northampton v I. Welsh. Gary Pears, the England prop, makes his first appearance for a month in international rugby when he starts moves to start-off where the Welsh also make a change. Howard Evans will replace the injured Gareth Jenkins at centre.

Mallalieu tips balance. Durham were right back in the match immediately on the resumption when Underwood, brother of the England wing, scored a magnificent try on the left from an overcut.

CROSS-COUNTRY. Cameras will be absent again in Milk event. Of the three main domestic cross-country races outside of championships in Britain, last year's Milk International at Mallalieu, near Exeter, was by far the most exciting.

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All Scottish positions begging to be filled

By Ian McLachlan

There have been few more important games in the Scottish domestic scene than today's international trial at Murrayfield. Virtually every place in the national side is there for the taking. The Blues, or senior side, with an average age of nearly 29 years, can hardly be claimed to be picked for this reason.

Instonians aim for top place. Instonians can understate their claims to finish top of the Section B of the Digital Ulster Senior League by winning the re-arranged game against struggling CYMS.

YACHTING. Lion roars home but is 64 seconds too late. Two more boats finished the second leg of the Whitbread 2000 World Race here yesterday and once again there were crowds of Cup Final proportions to greet them as they reached their berth.

Boat Show diary. Prince at the Palace. Prince Andrew is to open the National Dinghy Show, to be held at the Crystal Palace Sports Centre from March 8 to 9.

More retirement income? If you are retired, or planning for retirement, you need the best possible income from the capital you have, and probably help in reducing the amount of tax you pay.

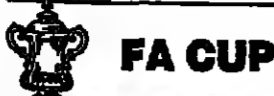
More retirement income? If you are retired, or planning for retirement, you need the best possible income from the capital you have, and probably help in reducing the amount of tax you pay.

FOOTBALL

Many happy returns for Mills as old guard and television reappear

By Clive White

Television cameras bring football back into focus for millions of followers this weekend after an absence lasting eight months. Viewers will find that little has changed and those who have forsaken the sport for an even longer time may find that not even the faces have changed. Old favourites like Mills, Wilson and Horton, or course, are still playing as well as managing at Stoke City and Hull City, respectively, though their appearances are less frequent these days. But few would have expected to see Higgins and Wile still performing in 1986. Higgins' comeback is particularly interesting and remarkable. Two years ago, while club captain at Everton, Higgins was forced to retire because of a pelvic injury. He then had to swallow back the frustration and unhappiness while he patted the back of the Everton team who, after several inter-



FA CUP

son, Gidman and Olsen for a variety of reasons, also welcome back Duxbury, the former England full back though his two-month absence because of injury seems short by comparison.

In contrast to Higgins, the return of Wile, who played 499 first division games for West Bromwich Albion across two decades, is a most reluctant one. Now manager of Peterborough United and two months short of his 39th birthday, he has been forced to dig out his boots again because of injuries to face Leeds United. Among those injured is Firm, who coincidentally has been advised to retire from the game. Perhaps he should first have a word with Higgins. The return of Horton, Hull City's player-manager, is surely on merit - unbiased of course - and the evidence that with his services they scored a startling 4-1 victory at Barnsley on New Year's Day yet without him they crashed 5-0 at Millwall. Mills, the former Ipswich Town and England full back, may be forced to gamble on his own fitness at 37 (his birthday is today) for tomorrow's tie at home to Notts County.



Diego Maradona (above) said yesterday that his knee does not need surgery and that it should stand up to the World Cup finals in Mexico in June. The Argentine forward, who plays for Napoli in the Italian league, added: "I met Dr Ruben Oliva and others in Buenos Aires and all agreed that surgery would be useless, if not dangerous".

Maradona has long been troubled by an aching knee and club doctors and other physicians had come to loggerheads recently on whether the player needed to undergo surgery, which would threaten the player's chances of playing in the World Cup. Tomorrow, Maradona leads Napoli in a difficult away match against Como. Napoli lie second behind Juventus in the league but trail by six points. The Argentinean doubted whether his team could catch Juventus in the second half of the season and felt that they should be thinking of a place in the UEFA Cup.

FA CUP TEAM NEWS

- Birmingham v Altrincham
Bristol R v Leicester
Bury v Barnsley
Carlisle v QPR
Coventry v Watford
Crystal Palace v Luton
Frickley v Rotherham
Gillingham v Derby
Grimsby v Arsenal
Huddersfield v Reading
Hull City v Plymouth Argyle
Ipswich Town v Bradford City
Liverpool v Norwich
Manchester U v Rochdale
Millwall v Wimbledon
Nottm Forest v Blackburn
Oxford v Tottenham
Peterborough v Leeds
Sheff Wed v WBA
Sheff U v Fulham
Sheff W v Aston Villa
Sheff W v Walsall
Stewart Robson: Could be back for Arsenal at Grimsby.

ICE HOCKEY

Soviets win world title with time to spare

Hamilton, Canada, (AFP) - The Soviet Union won the junior world championship two days before the end of the competition when they beat Canada, holders of the title on Thursday. Canada took an early lead but the Soviet Union were increasingly dominant as the match wore on and won by a 4-1 (1-1, 1-0, 2-0) margin. The victory means the Soviets cannot be overtaken in the standings whatever the result of Canada's last match, against Czechoslovakia. Canada, however, are certain to finish runners-up. A 17,000 crowd saw Shayne Corson put Canada ahead. Alexander Semak equalized. Canada were never given a chance from the outset and Opatowicz gave the Soviets the lead barely two minutes into the second period. Khatidurov made it three six minutes later and the goal was Viaznykin on target less than two minutes later to complete the humiliation of the host country. Results, page 19

HOCKEY

Champions look to Halliday for success indoors

By Sydney Friskin
There will be keen competition in this group for the two places which qualify for the semi-finals. Groningen, from the other group, are hoping to be the first Dutch team to win the tournament. Their main inspiration comes from their captain, Japp Schultz, a Dutch international. The remaining teams from this group are MILITARY International Metals, Firebrands of Bristol, and the Irish club, Avoca. Firebrands have replaced Team Volkswagen from Belfast, who withdrew after the death last Sunday of Frank Gorman during a training weekend in Dublin. Outdoors competition in the Norwich Union East League, the McEwan Lager South League, and the Sun Life West League will be resumed today, the Pizza Express London League having continued uninterrupted by the festive season. The team of the month award in the London League for December goes to Reading who are still unbeaten.

WEEKEND FIXTURES

- FA Cup third round
Scottish FA Cup Second round
Scottish premier division
Scottish first division
Scottish second division
Third division
Fourth division
RUGBY UNION
ICE HOCKEY

What makes Hearts beat faster New rule adds to club stress

By Hugh Taylor
Heart of Midlothian, the League leaders, are hoping that tonight they will find themselves even more fully established at the top of the premier division. They are four points clear of their nearest rivals, Aberdeen. Dundee United and Celtic, none of whom can be confident of taking full points from today's matches, and Hearts are playing with such confidence and style that it would be the surprise of the season so far if they were not to beat Motherwell, who are experiencing the greatest difficulty in easing themselves off the bottom rung of the ladder. What is true that they have gone down 2-1 at Fir Park ahead of this season, their new blend of youth and experience since then has been too rich for all opponents and they have not lost in 14 games. As the race for the title becomes hotter, the most fascinating match is expected to be Tannadice, where Dundee United and Celtic meet for the second time in less than a fortnight. United won narrowly the last time but Celtic's spirits have been raised by their New Year's Day victory over Rangers and a draw against the most likely rival, Celtic. Dundee United will be without McGugan, MacLeod and Provan out and Johnston doubtful. Aberdeen, the faltering champions, also have problems, with doubts about Spink and McKinnis which their real form during the holiday programme. Saints believe they can take a point at last. Rangers, who have taken only eight points from their last 21 League games, cannot be happy about the visit of Dundee to Drox. Yet Rangers played skilful football against Celtic and their manager, Jack Wallace, stands by the formation which lost 2-0 at Parkhead. Dundee may be without Brown and Stephen, their leading scorers. Hibernian are another team desperate for points, having after a recent good run, taken only two from their last seven games. They could start another revival by beating Clydebank at Easter Road. In the second round of the Scottish Cup the most interesting tie is that between Fort William, a new Highland League team, and Selkirk, Albion, the second division side who made history last season by beating Selkirk 20-0. Arbroath, whose tie at Peterhead has been postponed, will travel to St Johnstone for a second division tie.

Gemmell takes over Rovers

Tommy Gemmell, the former Celtic and Scotland full back, has been appointed manager of Albion Rovers. He takes over from Joe Baker, the former England player, who resigned as chief manager last week. Gemmell, who is in charge at Hampden Park today when Rovers face Queen's Park. Gemmell takes over as Albion Rovers' new manager, having collected only seven points from 19 games. He is in charge at Hampden Park today when Rovers face Queen's Park.

Palace aid Youth switch Belles ready

Dulwich Hamlet have agreed to stage Crystal Palace's Football Combination matches at Champion Hill, as from January 7, when Palace play Fulham (2.0). Palace have been playing their reserve matches at Leatherhead's ground since early October, when Charlton Athletic moved in to share the facilities at Selhurst Park. Charlton's home third round FA Youth Cup match against Manchester United has been switched from today to Monday evening (kick-off 7.30) because the pitch is frozen. The women's FA last year's beaten finalists, will face their chances of winning the trophy if they overcome Biggleswade at home. The holders, Friends of Fulham, were surprisingly beaten by Aylesbury in the last round.

Italians need foreigners to boost attendances

Milan, Italy (AP) - Attendance in the first half of the Italian League season are down 7 per cent on last year. However, figures do not show any significant decrease as a result of increased ticket prices. According to figures released by the Italian League this week 4.44 million people have attended football matches so far this season. Football officials blamed the drop on the "Brazil effect" when 39 supporters died in crowd violence in Brussels last May, fewer new foreign stars and the undisputed leadership of Juventus, which deprived the title race of any thrill, for the drop in attendances.

Cup favourites

Last season's finalists, Manchester United and Everton, are joint favourites to win the FA Cup at 11-2 with William Hill the bookmakers. Other odds: 6 Liverpool, 10 Chelsea, 11 Tottenham, 12 Arsenal, 14 Sheff Wed, West Ham, 20 Nottm Forest, 25 Luton, Newcastle, 33 QPR, Southampton, 40 Watford, 50 Bar.

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MARRIAGES, DEATHS, BIRTHS. MARRIAGES: On December 31st, 1985, the Rev. Canon J. G. ...

DEATHS. On December 31st, 1985, Mrs. Joan Mary ... On December 30th, 1985, Mrs. ...

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ANSEL. On January 2nd, to Gerald and ... BILLY-SCHEIDT. On December 31st, to Sarah ...

DEATHS

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Saturday

Weekend television and radio programmes

Summaries: Peter Dear, Peter Davalle

Sunday

tv-am

- 8.30 With the Wags, with the voices of Kenneth Williams (1.8.35 Hunter's Gold. Part one of a 13-episode adventure set in New Zealand in the 1880s (7).

tv-am

- 8.55 Good Morning Britain, introduced by Mike Morris. News at 7.00, then a report at 7.05; sport at 7.15.

ITV/LONDON

- 9.25 Film: Harem (1982) starring John Wayne, Elsa Martinelli and Henry Fonda. African bush adventure about how the dead daughter copes with the ruling of her father's game farm after he dies. She does so with the help of a group of dervishes led by a seasoned campaigner, Seari Marcor. Directed by Howard Hawks.



Sarah Collier and Sasha York: Strike It Rich (BBC 1, 7.20 pm). And Michael J Fox and Meredith Baxter Birney: Family Ties (Channel 4, 6.00 pm)

BBC 2

- 8.00 Ceefax. 2.00 Film: A Girl in Every Port (1951) starring Groucho Marx, Maria Wilson and William Bendix. Comedians about a pair of reluctant sailors who land themselves in a lot of trouble when they acquire a broken-down motorboat. Directed by Chester Erskine.

CHANNEL 4

- 12.50 Channel Four Racing from Sandown. The 1.00, 1.30, 2.00 and 2.30 races. 2.45 Film: Sweethearts (1938) starring Jeanette MacDonald and Nelson Eddy. Musical comedy about a couple, married for half a dozen years, whose marriage comes under strain after they are persuaded by their agent to leave Broadway for the delights of the silver screen in Hollywood. Directed by W. S. Van Dyke II.

BBC 1

- 8.55 Play School with Carol Leader and Stuart McCugan. 9.15 Morning Worship from Elm Ridge Methodist Church, Darlington. 10.00 Asian Magazine. Ali Akbar Khan, one of the leading sport players, talks to Reginald Massey about his life and his music.

tv-am

- 8.55 Good Morning Britain, commencing with A Thought for a Sunday; 7.00 Cartoon; 7.25 Are You Awake Yet? for the young at 7.25; the What's News quiz at 7.50; Jani Barnatt's Pick of the Week at 8.10; news headlines at 8.27.

ITV/LONDON

- 9.25 Cartoon Time. 9.35 Woody and Friends. Cartoon. 9.45 Snooper and Blabber. Cartoon.



Julian Pettifer: presenter of The Living Isles (BBC 1, 5.40 pm). And Kate Dornington and Jonathan Cecil: Alice in Wonderland (BBC 1, 5.10 pm)

BBC 2

- 8.00 Ceefax. 11.45 Champion, the Wonder Horse, comes to the aid of an injured escaped prisoner (7).

CHANNEL 4

- 1.00 Irish Aard - Hands. James Fallon and his Uncle Michael who work and maintain Mary Mill on the River Blackwater, between Kells and Kesh, one of the few mills using the traditional stone-grinding method.

Radio 4

- 8.00 News. 8.15 Also VHF stereo. 8.25 Shipping. 8.30 News Briefing. Weather. 8.40 Prelude. 8.50 News. Farming Today. 8.59 Prelude with Robert Robinson. Song by Jeremy Nicholas. 7.45 Baker's Dozen with Richard Baker. 8.30 Saturday-night Theatre. Poor Bessie by Jack Griggs. With Pasquale Amato and John Carroll. A story of a man who has an heir's secret search for a man.

Radio 3

- 8.55 Weather. 7.00 News. 8.05 Auldrie: Britain's Madras music. Op 24 (National PO). Leo's Concerto parades on Rigolotto (Bolt, piano; Wagner's Overland and Verano Music, Tannhäuser (Amsterdam). Concerto for Mozart's Piano, part from La Clemenza di Tito (Murray, mezzo). Fauré's suite Les Planes (Murray, mezzo).

Radio 2

- 8.00 News. 8.15 Sports Round-up. 8.25 Sokoroni Brom on a Monday. Experiences of a young man. 8.30 A Skewals Talk at... by Anthony Smith. 7.05 The World with Robert Robinson. Song by Jeremy Nicholas. 7.45 Baker's Dozen with Richard Baker. 8.30 Saturday-night Theatre. Poor Bessie by Jack Griggs. With Pasquale Amato and John Carroll. A story of a man who has an heir's secret search for a man.

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Radio 4

- 8.00 Bookshelf. Hunter Davies. The Court of Marston: a history of the Court of Marston, a history of the Court of Marston, a history of the Court of Marston. 8.30 In Praise of God for Epiphany. A meditation presented by The Rev Malcolm Goldsmith. 9.00 News. The Scotch Owe by Honore de Balzac. In four parts (7.15-7.45). 10.00 News. 10.15 The Sunday Feature. Glen Gould: the Canadian pianist. Presented by Jeremy Sloman. 11.00 Before the End of the Day. The story of a young man, to be researched into areas of concern for disabled people. 8.55 Weather. 8.58 Sunday Papers. 9.15 Letter from America by Alistair Cooke. 9.30 Community. Family Eucharist from the Parish Church of Christ the King, Ballyferret, West York.

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4-10 January 1986

SATURDAY

A weekly guide to leisure, entertainment and the arts

Troubled times on paradise island

Radio's Desert Island Discs returns tomorrow. But under Michael Parkinson it will be far less cosy than before. Even the choice of the first guest provoked some disagreement, as Bryan Appleyard reveals

Bruce Oldfield, dress designer to the likes of Joan Collins and the Princess of Wales, is facing Michael Parkinson, the new presenter of Radio 4's *Desert Island Discs*. They are having a pre-recording chat and "Parky" brings up the subject of the royal connections.

Suddenly deadly serious after all the mild banter, Oldfield leans forward and mutters urgently across the green baize table: "Don't ask me any direct questions about that. I know that the Queen listens to this programme and you know how cross she can get." Oldfield has clearly felt the lash of the royal tongue before.

Parkinson absorbs this with a wry smile. The recording gets under way. Oldfield is anxious that he has still not worked out the one luxury he is allowed on the island, but otherwise he is fluent and confident... almost cocky.

But Parkinson has scented blood and, sure enough, up comes the question about dressing people like Princess Diana and Joan Collins. He attempts, not entirely successfully, to exude the air of a man who has just plucked any two names out of the air.

Oldfield falters but seems to recover with: "I'm usually in charge."

Parkinson counters with a broad grin and: "You don't love the Royal displeasure then?"

Oldfield is definitely rattled now, but he manages: "You mean from Joan?" He waves an index finger in angry rebuke. The guile is now up and, even after a few more record breaks, Oldfield is clearly on the look out for more of the same. But Parkinson is a seasoned, gunner who has found his range; he measures his next shot flawlessly.

Coming in straight from a musical break, the Yorkshire accent at its blattest and most calculatedly philistine, he takes aim and fires: "Now, dress designing. Is it a proper job?"

The Oldfield face drops and he bungles badly, coming up with a lame answer about how hard he works - "up to 10 hours a week just on promotion".

The recording ends. The luxury settled upon was an endless supply of cigarettes and the book, apart from the Bible and Shakespeare, was J. P. Donleavy's *The Dubliners*.

As we file out of the sound engineer's box Parkinson bursts out of the studio and grabs me by the elbow. His eyes are those of a hunter after a successful kill. He had sweetly, smilingly and amiably "turned over" Oldfield and he knew it.

"Can you have a word with him?" He flicks his head in the direction of the producer Derek Drescher who, mercifully, cannot hear what is going on.

"Try to persuade him to put this one out first." One knows exactly what he means. After 43 years of the urbane flattery of Roy Plomley, Parkinson wanted his first show to announce that a new style had come to *DDD*. Once, appearing on the show had been like receiving the OBE for anything - nobody would say anything bad about you - but now things are clearly going to be a little grittier.

Unfortunately, a slightly shocked Drescher had already confided in me: "I don't think we can really start with this one." The poor man had produced the show for 10 years with Plomley. Now he was obviously glimpsing the possibility that one of the cosiest and most amiable jobs in broadcasting was in serious danger. Parkinson was threatening to detonate the formula.

Drescher intended to open with a programme which Parkinson had already recorded with film director Alan Parker. It had - so the public relations story goes - some sentimental value as Parker was to have been the next Plomley castaway.

In fact even the Parker interview had broken the old Plomley mould. Parkinson had known the director of *Midnight Express* and *Birdy* for some time and had steered him on to the subject of the state of the British film industry. Parker had been usefully controversial, denying the existence of any revival and generally pouring cold water on the usual movie hype. It was just that bit more explosive than anything Plomley would have tried.

But all this was becoming a bit like intruding on private grief. There was little, under the circumstances, I could do for Parkinson. I made my excuses and left.

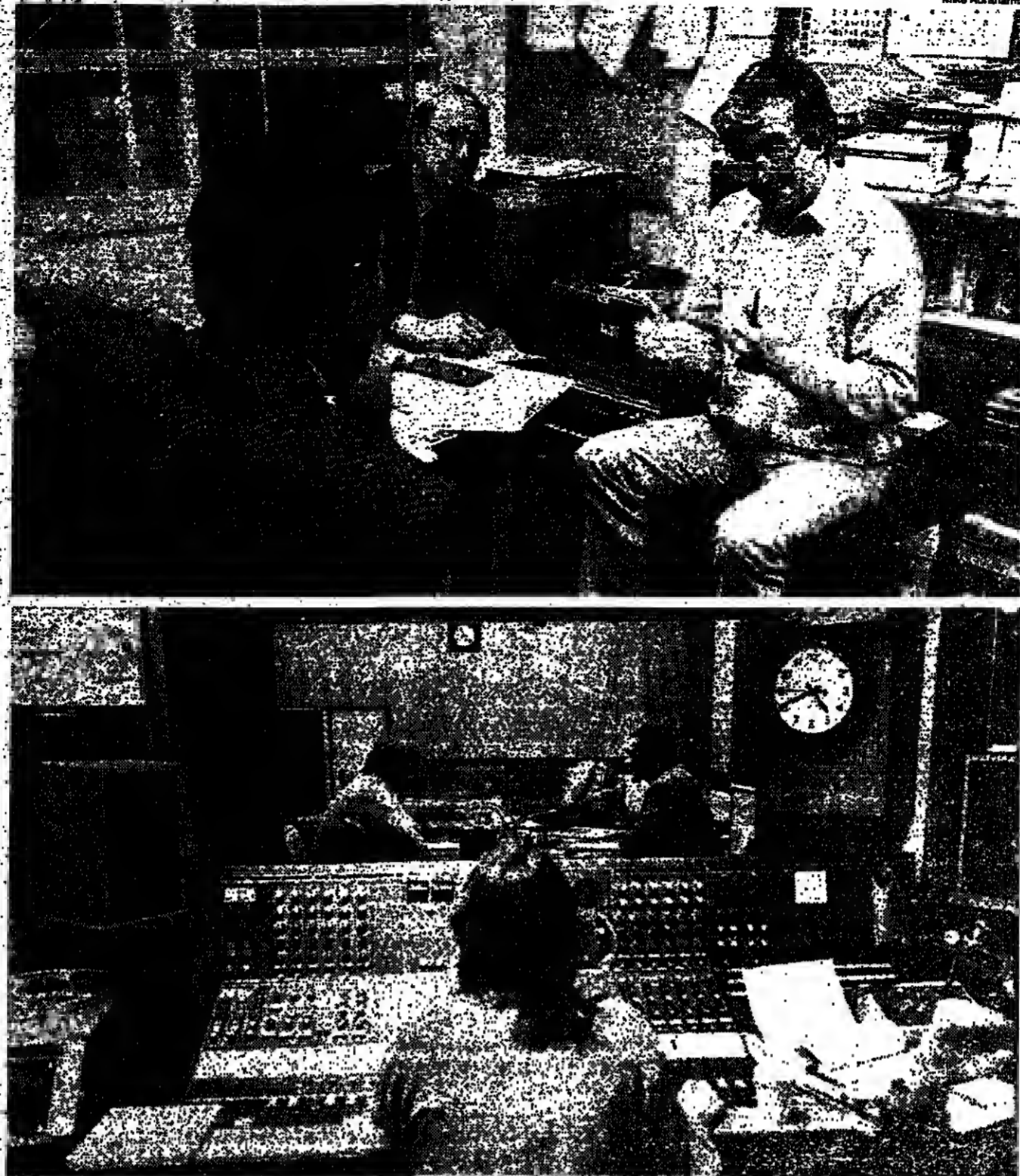
During a telephone conversation a few weeks later, it became clear that Parkinson had grown weary of the whole issue: "What does it matter who kicks off? The sooner this becomes just another radio programme the better."

Throughout December Parkinson had been rushing to record a whole 14-show series of *DDD*. Even this was in contrast with Plomley who had jogged along at a steady pace or two recordings a week. He used to take the castaways out to lunch. Parkinson has abandoned even that. The problem is, that he plans to spend three months from January watching cricket in Australia and the West Indies. So the programmes had to be sewn up by the New Year.

Plomley died in the spring and the decision was immediately taken to go on with the show. It was among the oldest programmes in the world and among the most loved. It had a warm combination of calm, obsequious chat and the mild thrill of guessing what records, luxuries and books the guests would choose. It was the essence of Radio 4, or more correctly, the Home Service, and it steadily drew one million listeners.

But Plomley was the programme. His solid, institutional quality arose from his friendly style and his complete inability to conduct an interview. His genial inquiries were predictable and designed solely to elicit a narrative on the most conventional possible view. There was never a difficult question and certainly no professional trickery. Roy Plomley never "turned over" anybody and he remains one of the few people who could be heard smiling on radio.

Plomley's widow, who inherited the show's copyright,



Shore touch: Parkinson rehearses with Bruce Oldfield (left) and Derek Drescher (centre) before the real interview (below)

had some say in the choice of successor. She agreed to a list of five names, any of whom could be chosen. Then she went public and announced that she preferred Richard Baker. Drescher felt aggrieved and then distinctly wounded when she rejected, badly to the choice of Parkinson. The battle between the old and the new had begun and Drescher was in the middle.

"Well, we did choose Parky because we wanted somebody slightly different," he confides, "somebody with a bit more edge. I mean people used to say that Roy was good at drawing people out - but he wasn't. If somebody wasn't talking he was lost."

On the Oldfield day Parkinson was to squeeze in two recordings - jazz musician Johnny Dankworth in the morning and Oldfield in the afternoon. The day starts at 10.30am in Drescher's office. It is in the Radio 3 building, to be close to the record library and the necessary expertise in identifying exactly what music castaways are after.

Parkinson bounces in slightly late and it immediately becomes clear that Dankworth - along with people like Boycott, Best and Contioli - is on the

list of Parky's intimates. Nobody is about to get "turned over".

He has all the non-style of wealthy middle-aged broadcasters - cavalry twill trousers, a pullover whose pattern matches his socks, a leather jacket and a salt-beef sandwich.

We plough through the list of music which Dankworth has sent them in advance. Drescher plays the records too loudly through his Marantz stereo and times them with his stop-watch. Every piece draws out anecdotes at which Parkinson laughs in his familiar all-boys-together style.

That process over, we stroll over to Broadcasting House for the recording. Parkinson is insistently keen to establish that he wants to be different from Plomley. He, for example, wants Arthur Scargill as a guest - difficult to imagine him responding to the gentle interest of good old Roy.

The desert island itself is a green baize table surrounded by padded turquoise screens in one corner of an enormous studio. There is not so much as a cardboard palm tree to give a little atmosphere. During the recording, they do not even play the records. This annoys Parkinson, who keeps moaning about having to pick up the

interview by referring to the preceding unheard music.

But the sound engineer is perfect. He was obviously born inside Broadcasting House and has over been anywhere else. He is a young version of the vintage BBC buff and he still has his school name-tag on his battered brief case - "P.C. Hutchinson".

The show goes smoothly enough. It is not like Plomley in that Parkinson seems less interested in the whole life story and the tone is less deferential. But it is cosy.

Dankworth dealt with, we go in search of lunch. Parkinson knows of a Chinese restaurant but it is full. He stands for a while in front of the waiter to ensure he has been recognized, but the man remains inscrutable and the restaurant remains full.

Everybody drinks except Parkinson, yet even so he begins to loosen up in some mysterious way. He launches into some predictable criticisms of Terry Wogan - guests reduced to ciphers, too big for his boots and so on, all combined with the usual disclaimers - "of course Terry's a lovely guy."

Then he begins to wonder about Oldfield and Princess Diana and it becomes clear why he is relaxing - he is looking forward to the challenge.

Drescher leaves to start work with Oldfield, but Parkinson is warming to his theme and he stays over several more coffees to discuss the vicissitudes of broadcasting life.

Back at Drescher's office Oldfield has significantly raised the sartorial stakes - double-breasted black and white heron-bone jacket, black suede shoes and Paisley-pattern tie.

His choice of records - complete with serial numbers - had arrived neatly typed on Bruce Oldfield headed notepaper. But there is some trouble about the right order which nettles Parkinson. He keeps dragging the conversation back to practicalities while Drescher and Oldfield mutter about precisely which piece is required from *The Magic Flute*.

Eventually we start the trek to a studio - this time it is smaller and there is no P. C. Hutchinson. Instead there is a girl of the genus "Islington" who priggishly cuts off the overheard conversation about the Royals and sneers "got your story then?" at the gentleman of the press. She also completes Parkinson and Oldfield's sentences and their grammar for the benefit of those in the box during the recording. Come

AND JUST ONE LUXURY?
Castaways are allowed one object of their choice. After 43 years the beaches are littered...

There have been a few defeatists along the way. Bandleader Billy Cotton chose as his one luxury a ticket home and pianist Sir Clifford Curzon took along a pill to put him to sleep for ever. By and large, however, the desert island has become what it was never intended to be - a monument to self-indulgence.

With Marti Caine in her bubble bath, Janet Suzman in mid-lined hammock and Helen Mirren in silk underwear, it is scarcely surprising that most of the scores of field glasses and telescopes have, over the years of *Desert Island Discs*, been chosen by men - among them, A. F. Herbert, Eamonn Andrews, Ronald Searle, Robertsoo Hare, Sir Arthur Bliss, David Attenborough and Fred Trueman.

Allowing for the immortality of its occupants, the all-pervading aroma on the island is that of expensive perfume brought by Jessie Matthews, Alicia Markova, Felicity Kendal and, surprisingly, John Osborne.

Ever since Spike Hughes bowled up with a barrel of wine in January, 1952, the sound of drunken merriment has become steadily louder. C. Day Lewis, Andrew Lloyd Webber, Gregory Peck, and Sir Robin Day have kept the cellars topped up (actor Hugh Williams remembered mercifully to bring a corkscrew) while whisky has been laid on by R. C. Sherriff, Burl Ives, Daphne du Maurier, Lord Snowdon, the Marquess of Bath and Kingsley Amis, apricot brandy by Sir Atec Guinness and vodka by Terry Wogan.

If Superintendent Robert Fahian of Scotland Yard dared to emerge from under his umbrella he would have little difficulty in solving some outrageous thefts.

Scattered around the island are Valerie Hobson with the Albert Memorial, Osbert Lancaster with Venetian de Milo, Tyrone Power with Leonardo da Vinci's notebooks, Kenneth Williams with Michelangelo's Apollo, Lionel Bart with Nelson's Colonel and Joan Fontaine, perhaps most daringly of all, with the Taj Mahal.

Several castaways, however, are only here for the sleep. Among those who arrived with their own bed are Evelyn Laye, Sid James, bandleader Ray Ellington (with mosquito net), Baroness Sommerskill (four-poster), David Niven and Margaret Leighton with her old Girl Guide camp bed.

What once of them realized was that sleep on the island is almost impossible - the whole place is shaking to the sound of music.

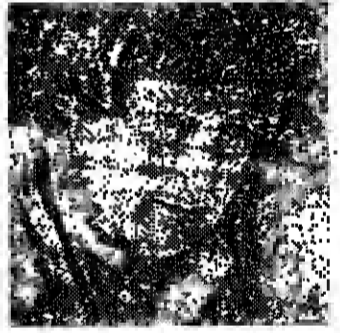
The orchestra is, to say the least, unusually composed, with Yehudi Menuhin, Max Jaffa, Frank Muir and James Herriot on violin; Pat Smythe, John Valentine Dwyall and Gareth Gregson, Mary Wilde, Harry Carpenter and Bing Crosby (guitars); Jimmy Edwards (euphonium); Henry Williamson (cor anglais); H. E. Bates (banjo); James Mason (bagpipes) and Humphrey Lyttelton, Valentine Dwyall and Gareth Edwards on trumpet.

Although the great majority of islanders have chosen the quiet, cotemporary life with paints, drawing materials or writing paper and pens, there is a certain amount of violent activity. While Sarah Vaughan, Sir Leo Hinton, The Lords Boothby and Longford, Max Bygraves, Peter Brough and Archie Andrews are swinging around the golf course, Peter Ustinov and Alan Melville have brought their tennis rackets and Frederick Forsyth is creating mayhem with his bow and arrows.

Meanwhile, Tito Gobbi is keeping discomfort at bay with his ivory backscratcher, Ludovic Kennedy is savouring a jar of tartare sauce, Alfred Marks has brought along a telephone which doesn't work, Alfred Hitchcock a Continental railway timetable and Oliver Reed, regrettably, an inflatable rubber woman.

Only Victor Borge has brought nothing. For him, the greatest luxury is not having to pay tax or insurance.

William Greaves



Alan Parker (above) is the guest on the first *Desert Island Discs* of the new series, on Radio 4 tomorrow from 12.15pm-12.55pm.

SATURDAY

Police man's ball:
Sting on his solo tour - page 32

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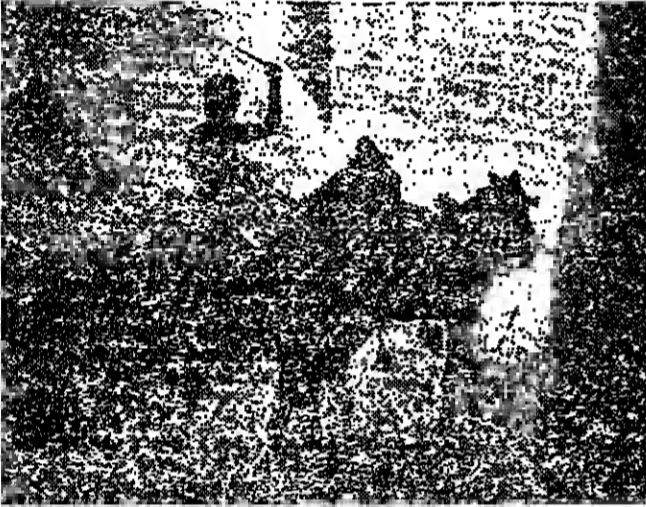
Edited by Shona Crawford Poole

TRAVEL

On horseback to the rose-red city

Continuing his occasional series on far-flung places, Michael Watkins heads for Jordan, a land of holy tombs and pagan shrines, where 'welcome' is the universal greeting and the dramas of the past are etched in the desert rock

I rode into Petra on a horse called Sahar; and it was foul, the weather was exquisitely foul. Anyone can enter Petra on a fine day. That takes no skill at all for most days are fine. The day I chose was God-sent, or at least the gift of lesser Nabatean deities who haunt this spot...



"A rose-red city - half as old as Time"; and rose-red it was, justifying the cliché. Half as old as Time was a lie, for Time is very old indeed. Older than Aaron whose tomb caps nearby Mount Hor; older than Moses himself where, at Wadi Musa, he struck the rock and water gushed forth.

Through the Siq: the tortuous approach to Petra. The Civil Aviation Authority has reminded holidaymakers planning a charter flight-based holiday to ensure that the tour operator holds a valid Air Travel Organizer's Licence (ATOL)...



Specialists in Jordan: Jasmin Tours, High Street, Cookham, Maidenhead, Berks SL5 9SQ (06285-29444). Flights to Amman by Alia: The Royal Jordanian Airline. The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan requires that your passport contains no Israeli immigration stamps...

cliffs and mountains within the canyon. Leaving the horses, we began a 45-minute haul to the Monastery of Deir carved in the third century AD to the Nabatean god Dhan-shara. As if this wasn't enough Fallahat, gesturing me to match foothold for foothold, started swarming up the rock-face of the monastery itself, spread-eagling his arms to find a grip...

sky, arguably the oldest houses in the world. Beyond Beida was "Little Petra", so called because it is all I have so far described in miniature, its secret better contained by remoteness and by an ancient guard, Mihimmid Amarin, a trusty Arab and honest, according to his reference signed by Diana Kirkbride.



Pillars of strength: columns in the forum at Jerash, founded by Alexander the Great. far as I could tell, were more than an overgrown village, so far from denying the shepherd his pasture, there is every likelihood that he or his kin will be around long after Amman returns to the wilderness to which it once belonged.

TRAVEL NEWS

Pay now, go easy

Two companies, Superbreak Mini-Holidays and Inter-Hotel, have combined to offer a pre-paid "go-as-you-please" hotel-accommodation voucher scheme aimed at independent travellers, particularly those planning a motoring holiday. It covers more than 400 hotels in Britain, Ireland, France, Switzerland, Germany and Belgium.

Liberal savings. The new liberalized air agreement between the British and Dutch governments has resulted in British Airways cutting fares on the busy London-Amsterdam route. The Saver fare will be cut by £10 to £99 return and the Super Saver fare by £22 to £69 return.

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Frozen assets. Holidays in Latin America will be cheaper this year, according to a specialist operator, South American Travel. The company has frozen most of its prices and has introduced shorter duration packages...

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TRAVEL

Shona Crawford Poole reports on Davos and keeps a weather eye on bargain breaks, while Richard Williams falls for Schladming

Finding your ski legs in Switzerland

Davos boasts the first T-bar in the world. It is also the venue for the annual Anglo-Swiss parliamentary ski race...

other across the town. With a score of 19 black lines on the piste map, there are plenty of options to interest the expert or intrepid, and it would be a very energetic intermediate skier who could explore the network of red runs thoroughly inside a fortnight.

Davos is the regional dairy centre and earnestly Swiss. Its drapers go in for long underwear, its ironmongers sell fine woodcarving chisels at a fraction of British prices...

TRAVEL NOTES

Tailor-made Ski Tours, Edysmead House, Farnley Wick, Bradford-on-Avon, Wiltshire BA15 2PZ (0225 859598). A week at the four-star Central Sportshotel with scheduled Swissair flight, train transfers from Zurich, full winter sports insurance and two days ski-guiding costs from £349...

scientific citizens for collecting pooch poop.

Trains connect sensibly with buses and ski lifts and all of them run on time, which is just as well because getting from one place to another takes a little planning. The town is long and thin and divided into two distinct areas: Davos Dorf and Davos Platz. By bus from Platz to Dorf and thence by mountain railway to Weissflurjoch, watershed of the Parsenn area, took exactly an hour at mid-week in low season.

It is precisely because Davos is a real place that it is less convenient than a purpose-built resort and more difficult to come to grips with quickly. For this reason and because the skiing is so diverse a guide is an invaluable introduction.

Tailor-made Ski Tours, a five-year-old tour operation to Davos run by qualified ski instructors Colin and Judith McCubbin, includes two days of guided skiing in groups of no more than five in every week's skiing booked. The McCubbins will take off into the powder, through the trees, down the gullies or stick safely to cruising on piste exactly as their clients wish. They are very nice people to ski with, especially for those in the mood to stretch themselves.



Fresh fields: recent snowfalls have improved conditions

The lowdown on Austria

It is said that no man will admit to being a poor performer in bed or at the steering wheel. I will go further. I am no good on T-bars, either.

I try, though. Whole afternoons are sacrificed to private T-bar practice as I shuttle up and down a nursery slope, chanting a mantra specially devised to relax the nerves by engendering a trust in the basically benign intention of whoever invented the blasted device.

The T-bar is not, I tell myself, part of the SAS induction course. It is there simply to take you up the hill, a function it performs without drama for millions of fat grandmothers and mewling eight-year-olds each season. It is so easy that some people can even ride a T-bar and conduct a conversation at the same time.

Not me. If you see my lips moving, it is merely to recite the mantra: "Relax... bend the knees... let the bar pull you... don't lean out... DON'T LEAN OUT..."

A moment later, I have executed a graceful sideslip into the virgin powder and am gazing in a rage at the ascending posterior of the large German with whose centre of gravity I have just proved incompatible. Then I contemplate the prospect of sidestepping 50 metres down to the foot of the lift, dodging the mocking smiles of a

stream of ascending eight-year-olds and grandmothers.

Since this was practically the last thing that happened to me at the end of four days in Schladming, it has since become a bit of a speckle in the memory. That is a pity, since this attractive old town otherwise has much to commend it to skiers of every calibre.

A first good impression was created by the 90-minute transfer from Salzburg's little airport, much appreciated by those still rubbing a sore memory of a six-hour trip between Geneva and Val d'Isère. The second obvious asset was the intimate, uncommercialized atmosphere of the town centre, which might be likened to a calmer Kitzbühel. The third attraction was the fact that, despite brown meadows at ground level (745m), we were able to ski at all.

Schladming has four mountains, one of which - the 1,894m-high Planai - rises practically out of the town centre. Planai's features include the opportunity to ski a world championship downhill course, whose grand sweeps are quite

TRAVEL NOTES

I stayed in Schladming at the four-star Sportshotel Royer, where Thomas Cook offers half-board terms ranging from £295 for seven nights in low season to £635 for 14 nights in mid-February.

manageable by intermediates. On our visit though, the bare final section had been covered a day or two before by artificial snow, which had frozen into a field of vicious moguls. That put an end to the dreams with a bump or, rather, a series of bumps.

Of the three other peaks, Hochwurzen probably has the best beginners' slopes while Hauser Kaibling and Reiteralm are covered in the sort of troglodyte red runs that raise fallen spirits. They raised mine, anyway, after a distinctly patchy week in the French Alps.

Those T-bars undid most of the good work, though. On the glorious Reiteralm there are two in particular that proved shattering, each dragging skiers for nine minutes over distances of more than 1.6km.

Would it not be in the Austrians' best interests to install chairs in such places? Or am I just being pathetic in expecting them to accommodate the incompetence of those who were not born on skis?

While they are improving transportation, they should also do something about getting up the shuttle service between the four mountains. We heard several complaints from British holidaymakers that buses turned up infrequently and erratically - another area in which Val d'Isère could teach Schladming a useful lesson.

Pocket guide

Bargain hunters in the January ski holiday sales will find some exceptional buys this year. The reason is a happy conjunction of weather and school holidays.

With Europe's children back at their desks in early January the rest of the month is always a low season and traditionally combines the lowest prices of the year with the greatest abundance of snow. It can, of course be bitterly cold, and it is often snowing when skiers want to be out.

But this year, prices already adjusted to their seasonal lowpoint are being dropped still further because the season got off to such a slow start. Snow conditions were very poor almost everywhere before Christmas - the exception was the Arlberg area on the Austro-Swiss border which is one of the few regions with a solid base this year. But this week's widespread heavy snowfalls ensured that in the immediate future conditions should be good throughout the Alps.

Now to those cut-price holidays. Chalet skiing is where the greatest savings are to be found, because the operators are committed to the rental of the

buildings and to employing the chalet girls. Not only do they want to sell the beds, but chalets are invariably in the best resorts.

Thus, at St Anton, in the Arlberg area of Austria, which had good early snow, Bladen Lines (01-785 2200) has already booked chalets for a week in Courchevel, in the Trois Vallées of France, where the snow is good now but was poor earlier. Bladen Lines offers a full-board week in its Chalet Astragale for £139 plus £20 insurance, down from £274.

Supertravel (01-584 5060) has dropped the price of a week at the Chalet Baron in St Anton from £264 to £184 (plus £30 for airport tax and insurance), and offers comparable reductions on a week in Courchevel - a double with en suite bathroom at Chalet Maisonnée is now £204 per person (plus £30 for airport tax and insurance), down from £284.

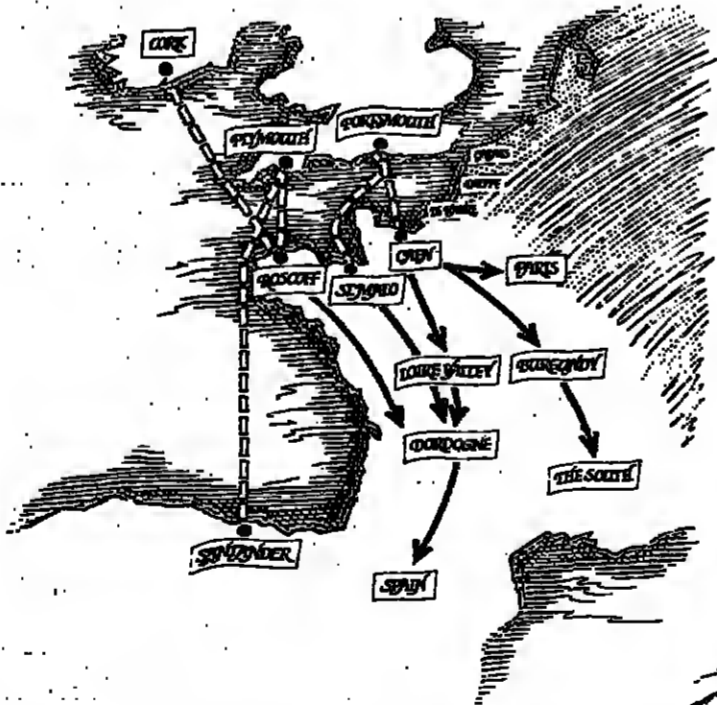
In Meribel, still in the Trois Vallées, Snowstars (01-836 3237) has dropped the price of a week in Chalet La Riche from £235 to £160 plus £17 insurance. All prices quoted are for January 11 departures.

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OUT AND ABOUT

Jane's home of hidden emotions

The Austen house at Chawton, where six great novels were completed, still seems a happy family home, as Nigel Andrew reports



Chawton is one of those rare places that have less traffic now than 200 years ago. Then it was right on the main road to Portsmouth; now the A31 and A32 carefully avoid the village. In the early years of the 19th century, a gentleman passing by on the high road glanced in at the window of a house in Chawton and reported seeing a family 'looking very comfortable at breakfast'. They were the widowed Mrs Austen and her daughters, Cassandra and Jane.

It was Jane's brother Edward, informally adopted into the wealthy Knight family, who willed her mother and sisters the Cottage (with six bedrooms) near his Chawton seat. It is still easy to see where he had a large window blocked up, to avoid too much scrutiny from the road. His replacement, in more fashionable style, faces onto the garden, which was then well hedged in and which occupied much of Mrs Austen's time.

Then there is the very pretty patchwork quilt to which mother and daughters all contributed. Many of the letters displayed are well worth poring over, particularly for Jane's more vivacious asides. In fact the house has so much on show commemorating not only Jane but others of her family, including the two brothers who were Admirals — that visitors have been known to linger for three or four hours.

In the bedroom Jane shared with Cassandra is the original fireplace by which she took her final leave of her sisters Caroline and Anne. As Caroline afterwards recalled: 'Pointing to seats which had been arranged for us by the fire, she said, 'There's a chair for the married lady, and a little stool for you, Caroline'. — It is strange, but those trifling words are the last of hers that I remember...'

Shortly afterwards the ailing Jane Austen left for Winchester, where she died at the age of 41. As you stand by that fireplace at Chawton, those 'trifling words' make the long-dead author suddenly very real.

Jane Austen's house is at Chawton, Hants (GU20 3ZB), one mile south of Alton. Open 11am-4.30pm Wed-Sun (Nov, Dec, March, excluding only Jan, Feb), daily April 1-Oct 31. Admission: adults 75p, children 25p, group rate 50p (from Jan 1986, 85p, 35p, 70p).

BRIDGE

A fairy tale win for the women

British World Championship victories are rare, whatever the sport, so the penny whistle fanfare that our women's team received from the press when they retained the Venice Cup in Sao Paulo was most disappointing.

The rules ordained that in the semi-final Britain should play France, while USA played Taipei.

There was a fairy tale quality about this success, which began at the European Championship in Salsomaggiore. To qualify for the World Championship the team had to finish first or second. A poor start appeared to leave them with too much ground to make up, but with a final spurt worthy of 'Pebbles', they snatched second place on the post.

In the open room the British pair juggled the borderline slam hand well.

East mistakenly takes the ♠A, declarer can make twelve tricks by a double squeeze. In the end game East must preserve the ♠Q: West must retain the winning diamond, leaving both incapable of guarding hearts.

Mayhem broke out in the closed room.

The British recovered to such good effect in the second round that they were the qualifying favourites for Taipei.

White's pressure against the Black pawns on K3 and K34 forces Black to relinquish their cohesion.

to undermine White's Queen's side. Correct would have been 24...QR-K1, rushing his reserves to the centre.

CHESS

Disarming combat of a champion

The recent match between the new World Champion, Gary Kasparov and the best of the West, Jan Timman, was outstanding. Their six games were some of the most combative and exciting ever played at this level.

An excellent defensive resource which Kasparov had underestimated. The World Champion had only anticipated 19 N-Q2 when 20 P-B4 followed.

An original switch back Black still has no choice.

CHURCHILLIANA: Two hundred items from the private collection of Ronald Smith, including toy jugs, postcards, cigarette cards and other small items. The Cabinet War Rooms alone are well worth a visit — 19 rooms exactly as they were when Churchill and his chiefs of staff inhabited them.

Hoping to improve on his play from game 4 where 15...N11-R3 16 NxP NxN 17 BxBP grated White a vehement attack for the sacrificed piece.

Raymond Keene

BOATINGS

HOW THE WAR IS OVER: Exhibition about life in Britain from 1945-1951, including photographs and memorabilia. Films associated with the period include Pathé newsreels of 1945 (Jan 24, 2.30pm), and the classic feature film *Passport to Pinhead* (today from 3pm). Other documentary films showing next Saturday.

until Jan 12. Tues-Sat 10am-6pm, Sun 2-6pm. Free.

WELSH GOLD: Small temporary exhibition of Clough or in which the gold is visible, plus various artefacts, and a geological explanation of the gold deposits found in North Wales of which the Clough 'strike' is the most recent. Natural History Museum, Cromwell Road, London SW7 (01 589 6232).

10am-7pm, except Jan 9 10am-9pm. Adult £3.25, child £2.

TALES FROM A LONG ROOM: Robin Bailey assumes the character of 'The Brigadier' created by Peter Tinniswood, and tells tales of great catchers. Lyttelton Theatre, National Theatre, South Bank, London SE1 (01-223 2252). Mon, 6pm, £2.

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ROYAL FESTIVAL HALL POPULAR CLASSICS. Listings for Rossini-Mozart-Bethoven, Mendelssohn-Bethoven-Tchaikovsky, and Winter Love Classics.

RAYMOND GUBBAY presents TOMORROW at the BARBICAN. Listings for Rossini-Handel-Grieg-Bethoven, Mendelssohn-Bethoven-Tchaikovsky, and The Charge of the Light Brigade.

Sadler's Wells Royal Ballet. Listings for Sainsbury's Christmas Season, Coppelia, and The Wand of Youth.

VICTOR HOCHHAUSER PRESENTS AT THE ROYAL FESTIVAL HALL. Listings for Mozart - Handel - Rodrigo - Dvorak, Mendelssohn - Handel - Bruch - Beethoven.

GLC Working for the Arts in London. Listings for various chamber music and recital events.

PHILHARMONIA ORCHESTRA BRITTEN/ELGAR SERIES. Listings for Britten Requiem, The Young Persons Guide to the Orchestra, and Elgar The Apostles.

ROYAL PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA. Listings for Bizet-Tchaikovsky-Elgar, Sir Yehudi Menuhin conductor, and Sibelius-Rachmaninov-Dvorak.

AMASSATORS THEATRE. Listings for The Theatre of Comedy, Penelope Keith, and The King's Tail.

AT THE BARBICAN. Listings for Handel - Mozart, Elgar - Beethoven, and Brahms - Mahler.

HMS PINAFORE. Listings for HMS Pinafore and Central Band of the Royal Air Force.

ROYAL FESTIVAL HALL LONDON CHORAL SOCIETY. Listings for Britten: Serenade for Horn & Strings, Young Apollo, and St Nicholas.

ROYAL PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA. Listings for Verdi Requiem, Gheena Dimitrova, and Dame Janet Baker.

ROYAL PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA. Listings for Verdi Requiem, Gheena Dimitrova, and Dame Janet Baker.

AT THE ROYAL ALBERT HALL. Listings for Beethoven Missa Solemnis and Philharmonia Orchestra.

SIMON RATTLE. Listings for Turangalila Symphony and Don Lusher Trombone.

St John's Smith Square. Listings for various chamber music and recital events.

ROYAL PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA. Listings for Verdi Requiem, Gheena Dimitrova, and Dame Janet Baker.

ROYAL PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA. Listings for Verdi Requiem, Gheena Dimitrova, and Dame Janet Baker.

QUEEN ELIZABETH HALL. Listings for Beethoven Missa Solemnis and Philharmonia Orchestra.

ROYAL OPERA HOUSE. Listings for Opera & Ballet and various chamber music events.

CONCERTS. Listings for various chamber music and recital events.

ROYAL PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA. Listings for Verdi Requiem, Gheena Dimitrova, and Dame Janet Baker.

ROYAL PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA. Listings for Verdi Requiem, Gheena Dimitrova, and Dame Janet Baker.

Paperbacks

REVIEW

On the road with the lost tribes of rock

They wander, usually in summer, down Wardour Street and the King's Road, German backpackers with Virgin Megastore bags, Dutch bikers with death's-head heavy-metal patches on their denim jackets, Belgian punks with swastika tattoos bled on their cheeks, Japanese art students with David Bowie make-up.

Mr Platt takes in the psychedelic years - Granny Takes A Trip, UFO, the 14-Hour Technicolor Dream - and stops just as things are getting out of hand. His book is a good read, supporting the well ordered narrative with excellent pictures and helpful maps.

Hooked on hardship

The Day of the Fox by Norman Lewis (Robinson Publishing, £2.95) This story of a small Spanish fishing village caught at a moment of change is a vehicle for Norman Lewis's extraordinary powers of description.



Mediculous: Norman Lewis

Rambunctious rambles through the past

Robert Nye does not make life easy for himself. Had he wished to do so he could have embarked upon the further fleshing out of Sir John Falstaff, one of Shakespeare's most rounded comic characters.



Splitting image: Zoot Money's Big Roll Band outside the Flamingo, Soho, in 1964

A willing slave who waited in the wings

Katherine Mansfield: The Memories of LM by Ida Constancia Baker (Virago, £4.50) It is intriguing to put these simple memoirs next to a letter from Katherine to Middleton Murry. For Katherine - and here the friendship begins to show its true oddness - the silent constancy of LM was malign and powerful.



Difficult: Katherine Mansfield

THE WEEK AHEAD

Showman who created Hollywood in England

A curiosity of the British cinema is that, while so much home-grown talent, from Chaplin to Stan Laurel, Hitchcock and Cary Grant, abandoned it for Hollywood, some of its most successful films have been made by foreigners.

New year revolutions for all that jazz

Historic jazz recordings as most of us will not have heard them before are the staff of Robert Parker's Jazz Classics in Stereo, a 26-part series which starts on Radio 2 tomorrow (4-4.30pm).

CONCISE CROSSWORD (No 840)

Prizes of the New Collins Thesaurus will be given for the first two correct solutions opened on Thursday, January 9, 1986. Includes a crossword puzzle grid and list of clues.

Rich pickings and a bundle of laughs

Shoestring and the disappointingly tepid Bergerac follows the Jersey detective with Lovejoy (BBC1, Fri, 9.30-10.25pm), a comedy-drama about the antique business written by Ian La Frenais.

TELEVISION

The turn of the year means a fresh start for television as the companies take stock of the Christmas ratings battle and unveil their new offerings.

RADIO

As the programme reveals through interviews with friends and colleagues, he was an odd character to say the least. He lived almost as a hermit, wore an overcoat and muffled on the hottest New York day and talked for hours on the telephone with people whom he never met.

THE WEEK AHEAD



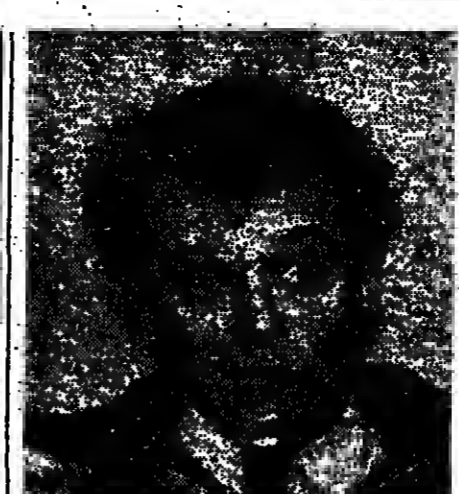
OPERA
SACHS ROAMER: Norman Bailey is back as Hans Sachs...



FILMS
DRAGON SLAYER: Michael Cimino returns to the screen...



CONCERTS
KEY NOTES: José Feghelli, the 24-year-old Brazilian pianist...



TELEVISION
TALL STORY: Rik Mayall, star of alternative comedy...



JAZZ
TOUGH TENOR: George Coleman missed the glory generally reflected...



DANCE
STYLE POINTS: Elaine McDonald, Scottish Ballet's gamin...

ARTS DIARY

Running in to trouble

The Car Wars battle between biographer Robert Lacey and his American opposite numbers...

Is it a write off?

Tom Stoppard has just returned from Hollywood where he has delivered his screenplay of J. G. Ballard's novel...

Two to be Prue

Two actresses will simultaneously be playing the buxom Miss Prue in Congreve's Love For Love in London...

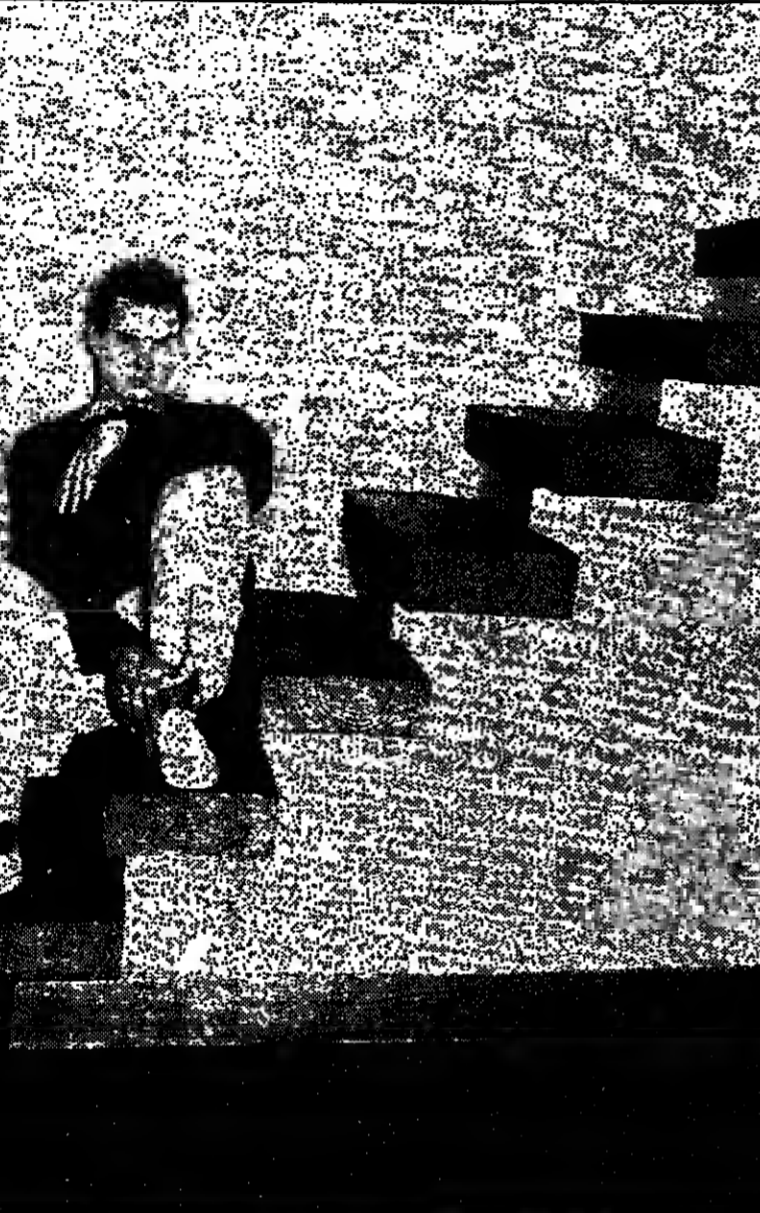
Sunrise set

Speculation over the appointment of the head of the BBC's new Daytime Television...

Christopher Wilson

Mr Wilson is the author of the play 'The Last Days of Pompeii'...

Released from the Police



It happens to all bands, not just the Police. You start off as a democracy and then someone emerges as the leader. It usually ends in trouble...

Sting embarks on a new phase of his solo career when he starts a major tour of the UK tonight, writes Michael Cable

Slenderest of prospects - including an invitation from the drummer Stewart Copeland to form a band to be called the Short of Folly...

THEATRE

IN PREVIEW

ELMER GANTY: Steve Brown's musical, about the unbelievably hell-fire preacher, directed by Giles Croft...

OPENINGS

FATHER'S LYING DEAD ON THE IRONING BOARD: Agnes Bernelle presents a collection of songs which she has translated and adapted...

SELECTED

OTHELLO: Terry Hands directs Ben Kingsley, David Suchet, Niamh Cusack, Janet Dale, Gerard Logan, Tom Mannion, Joseph O'Connor...

DANCE

SADLER'S WELLS ROYAL BALLET at Sadler's Wells (01-278 8916) dances Coppélia today (matinee and evening) and Mon...

BOOKINGS

ROYAL OPERA HOUSE: Postal booking opens this week for new production of Der fliegende Holländer...

LAST CHANCE

SEA FINLAND: This presentation of seafaring in Finland includes relics, models and illustrations of primitive boats...

PHOTOGRAPHY

THE PHOTOGRAPHIC ART: PICTORIAL TRADITIONS IN BRITAIN AND AMERICA: More than 100 examples of British and American fine art photography...

THE TIMES CHOICE

CONCERTS

HANDFORD/HALLE: Besides Joanna Grusenberg soloing in Grieg's Piano Concerto, Maurice Handford conducts the Halle Orchestra in Mozart's Le nozze di Figaro...

FILMS

A CHORUS LINE (PG): After almost a decade of hesitations, Michael Bennett's stage musical about show business arrives on the screen...

OPENINGS

SCOTTISH BALLET also performs The Nutcracker, in Peter Darrell's production, at the Theatre Royal, Glasgow (01-231 1234) today and 34 Cork Street, London W1 (01-439 6262)...

GALLERIES

SCULPTURE: Work by 18 sculptural stars, such as Calder, Caro, Frank and Paladino; also Roy Lichtenstein: Expressionist woodcuts from 1980, paintings and landscapes from the last two years...

OPERA

ENGLISH NATIONAL OPERA: The Masterworks of Mozart opens tonight at 8pm, a revival of Elijah Moshinsky's lively, warmly human 1984 production...

ROCK & JAZZ

BARRY MANLOW: How easy it is to forget that buried inside the type surrounding the housewife superstar is a gift for pure pop that has found expression in such kitsch gems as 'Mandy'...

BOOKINGS

ROYAL OPERA HOUSE: Postal booking opens this week for new production of Der fliegende Holländer with cast including Robert Lloyd, Simon Estes, and Rosalind Plowright...

LAST CHANCE

SEA FINLAND: This presentation of seafaring in Finland includes relics, models and illustrations of primitive boats, great square-rigged sailing ships, naval battles in the Baltic as well as wrecks...

